

*Tom - excellent idea -
agree. 100%*

When I last talked to Ed, he told me - with pleasure and great good humor - of what one of his doctors had said.

That through all these difficult times, Ed had remained, always - "urbane and together"

Surely he was that - then, and all the days I knew him.

Where did it all come from? What does the record show of this man?

That he was born in New York in 1932, served his country in the United States Army, attended Brooklyn College, and worked for a time thereafter with the Ward Bread Company.

I would add that countless people are glad he did the latter. You who remember his story of the yellow bugs will, I am sure, agree.

He then was with the Port Authority for a dozen years. And, since 1976, with The New York Times. Surely an enviable record in itself but what happened was so much more than this.

I have no question that Ed would have put the turning point at the day he joined A.A., twenty years ago. From then on, there was no turning back. The core of his life became helping his fellow alcoholics.

He did this in his groups in Brooklyn and Manhattan in 12th Step work. He made talks, countless talks, sharing his experience, strength and hope that others might recover from this terrible disease.

He helped develop an organized effort to reach alcoholic employees at the Port Authority and soon did that as a full time job there. And this led in time to his being chosen to develop and head a similar landmark program at The New York Times.

Ed, of course, saw all of this as simply an opportunity to do 12th Step work on a broader scale. And this he did.

He lectured - at Rutgers, Baruch, N.Y.U., others. He was elected, by his peers, first as President of the New York Chapter of ALMACA and then its National President.

Ecology written and delivered by John Williams

Recently, he had been asked to serve as Trustee of the Stepping Stones Foundation by Lois Wilson, widow of the founder of A.A. And, several years ago, the greatest honor and opportunity for service of all - he was made a Trustee of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

His contributions were simply enormous. Thousands of people - directly and indirectly - had their lives changed for the better because of Ed. There is, I assure you, no understating those contributions, none at all.

As to Ed, the individual - this "urbane and together man" - what do we remember of him - how do we think of him?

His beloved sister Peggy speaks of a "special quality" he had that no one else did. I know we all share that feeling.

A dear friend of his thinks of his honesty - a man who spoke his mind but did so without hurt.

Another speaks of his love and his joy.

A colleague remembers his sense of humor and giving of himself, and another recalls Ed saying "it's time for a cup of coffee" and wishes there were time for one more.

And there was a plaque given to Ed on some occasion which quoted, as applying to him, words once said by Noel Coward of Frank Sinatra -

"Never once the wrong move;
Never once a breach of taste."

He was the sum of all these parts - these memories - a man of very special qualities indeed.

So, variously as we remember him and grieve with his family this great loss, surely we can also take great comfort in our belief that he rests now in the care of that Higher Power whom he served so long and so well.

And may we say in closing, those words from the theater which he loved so well - good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.