Commentary

Obituary: A Tribute to Sam (Egdorf)

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A TRIBUTE TO SAM

For those of you who didn't know Sam Egdorf, I will try and describe him from my perspective. Sam was a handsome, white haired gentleman with blue eyes that sparkled with intelligence. He was the kind and loving husband of Joanie Egdorf and always by her side at IAOM functions. In real life, Sam was a nuclear scientist, but he was very supportive of Joanie's career and became as much a part of the IAOM as was Joanie. All who knew him respected and admired his wonderful sense of humor, his ability to integrate with this close-knit group, and the fact that he was accepted as a peer.

During the two years that I was President of the IAOM, it was my pleasure to work with Sam as he made his most important contribution to the IAOM, developing a web site. He had already had a bout with cancer of the larynx and had a laryngectomy. His spirits were not daunted by the difficulty of learning to speak all over again, and because he had retired by this time, he was looking for a "project". Something to fill his days and distract him from his health problems. It was his suggestion that he develop a web site and his advanced computer skills allowed him to do so. He also designed and implemented our new logo with its international theme. His most generous nature meant that he would do all of this highly skilled work for nothing. The IAOM is eternally indebted to Sam for his dedication and ability. It would have been a long time before our small organization could have afforded to pay a professional for what Sam did at no charge.

Our web site has greatly improved our communication between members and with prospective members. It has also allowed us to emerge into the 21st century on a par with far larger organizations. On October 30, 1999, Sam succumbed to the cancer that had plagued him for so long. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The IAOM has greatly benefited from the contributions of both Sam and Joanie, and it is my suggestion that we dedicate the web site to our original Web Master, Sam Egdorf, as Joanie continues to carry on his work.

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