

On Sunday, July 25, 2010, at approximately 6:23 PM, **David Fehrenbach**, President of St Petersburg Plumbing Services, Inc., passed away, with his family around him and many of his friends waiting just down the hall.

I would like to take a moment of your time to talk about the life of this champion of our association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors.

The time we take to reflect on what David meant to our Association and many of our members individually, will never do justice to the effort, time and devotion that he selflessly gave.

I knew David for ten or more years and, in that time, spent hundreds or thousands of hours talking to him and going to meetings where he taught, inspired and motivated all in attendance with his passion for: **being in the plumbing business.**

I always knew he was involved in the PHCC and his commitment led him to serve on the Board of Directors and as President of the Pinellas and State Association chapters.

David's efforts went beyond our local chapter. He worked very hard at the state level to promote and protect the plumbing trade and our scope of work from being diminished. The more I got to know David, I realized his phone and email were always busy with people involved in the PHC business... locally, at the state and even at times the national level. David always made time for everyone who contacted him about the PHCC or a business issue. David's involvement led him to receive many awards that meant a lot to him, including the highest award given anyone in the Florida Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, the "In Orbit Award." However, you would never know this. He down played the acknowledgement these awards are intended to bestow.

I can't remember a time when David didn't have time to talk to a fellow plumbing contractor or member to help. I'm often told by guests at our local PHCC general meetings, how surprised they are to find plumbing contractors interested in helping each other.

In the last few years, due to illness, David stepped back and let others take the torch and lead our cause, but he continued to stay in contact with local plumbing contractors through monthly meetings at his shop and weekly lunches at local restaurants. He listened to, and talked to, business owners; some new and some who have been around for a good many years.

David helped all of us realize that our business challenges are the same challenges that PHC contractors have experienced for years before us, and we have often learned how to resolve them at a table, with friends, and a good meal.

I was told by the staff at St Pete Plumbing they were receiving calls from as far away as California inquiring about David. Just today, I talked with a fellow PHCC contractor, who told me of a time when David came to his assistance, late on a Saturday, with a 4" copper leak in a downtown high-rise working 30 to 40 feet up in a ceiling from a lift. His story didn't surprise me. This was the kind of support and friendship you always received from David Fehrenbach.

The man I came to know as a leader, a plumbing contractor, someone who always helped his fellow businessman, has passed.

David enjoyed being a plumbing contractor and a businessman. He enjoyed being a friend and being with his friends. Most of all, he enjoyed being a husband, a father, and a grandfather. He often shared with me about his granddaughter, whom he cherished, and how much joy she had brought into his life.

Let us take a moment to think about David Fehrenbach and his contributions to our lives, and the friendships he shared with us all, even if it's just for a moment.

Farewell, my friend, thank you for all you gave, all you shared, all you inspired us to do and all of the new opportunities you have left us with.

David Tyska
Better Plumbing, Inc.