

Remembering Andy

Everyone associated with the VNA was devastated by the sudden and untimely death of Andrew J. Kuzneski, Jr. Andy was thoroughly a part of the agency from its inception. He served continuously on the VNA Board of Directors, beginning with the Charter Board in 1970. He served several terms as President of that Board and was also President of the VNA/Hospice Foundation Board. He, his wife, Joyce, and their children supported the organization in many ways. The year he and Joyce chaired the Garden Tour and hosted the Preview Reception, "Hope in Bloom" attracted record attendance and proceeds.

Joining together to offer heartfelt condolences to the Kuzneski family, Board members and management staff offered the following remembrances:

"The father of the VNA"

Andy's deep love for the VNA was shown in his many years of service. Even more, I'm sure, Andy's work for the VNA was because of his respect and

concern for the welfare of all Indiana County citizens. Those of us on the Board of Directors treasured Andy's insight, humor, and warmth. For almost 40 years, the VNA has benefited from Andy's steady leadership and guidance. I do consider Andy to be the father of our current VNA. There is no doubt that Andy has helped to make Indiana a better community. We all feel the loss. Our most sincere condolences to the Kuzneski family.

*Gordon Thornton,
Chairman of the
VNA Board of Directors*

"Andy's girls"

My first involvement with VNA was as a member of the Board of the Foundation, of which Andy was President. I noticed early on that most of the members who attended the meetings were women. After awhile, we referred to ourselves as "Andy's girls." A major job was to update mailing lists (manually) and stuff envelopes. There sat Andy, at the head of



the table, chatting and working with his crew. When the Tree of Lights was lit up at the beginning of the holiday season, Andy always brought Joycie's pepperoni bread and a bottle of good cheer to help get the participants in the spirit. Turnout in those days — outside of the 119 Professional Center on the grass facing Wayne Avenue — was sparse. But Andy had all of us merry with his commitment, enthusiasm, and refreshments. It was always a pleasure to work

with him and to be part of the organization he held dear.

Susan Brody, Chairwoman of the VNA Extended Home Care Board of Directors

“The consummate nonprofit board member”

I cannot begin to express what this man has meant to us as an agency and to each one whose life he touched individually. He was always there. No matter how busy he was, no matter what else was on his calendar, Andy made time for the VNA. He provided support, encouragement, and knowledge. He gave his heart and soul. Because of his continuous experience, it was always easy for Andy to zero in on whatever the issue was, and to provide wisdom and guidance. He had such pride in the growth and development of the agency. Truly, he gave of his time, talent, and treasure - the consummate nonprofit board member.

Linda Bettinazzi, CEO

“He never met a stranger”

Andy had many gifts, and one that I remember was his gift of always having a positive attitude and a friendly demeanor. He always had that tremendous smile on his face and never met a stranger. His counsel and leadership for the VNA during his many years

of service were second to none. When I think of Andy, I think of something Vince Lombardi said: “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence.” Yes, Andy had a wonderful, quality-filled life, and his life reflected his commitment of excellence to his family, friends, and community. We are all blessed to have had Andy come our way. I am honored to have known such a good and kind person. He will be missed.

*Carson Greene, Jr.,
Vice Chairperson,
VNA Board of Directors*

“A great void”

I think I’ll miss the *sound* of Andy as much as anything. That incredible laugh! And the words of greeting and encouragement he had for everyone from every walk of life. The silencing of that voice will be a great void.

*Betsy DeGory,
Director of Funds Development*

“Wonderful legacy”

It was through the VNA that I was able to get to know Andy much better. While we enjoyed certain charity, social, and business relationships in the past, it was not until I joined the VNA Board that I was able to truly “see him in action.” He brought a breadth and depth of experience that clearly helped the VNA — during

my tenure and for many years before that. Andy did everything with enthusiasm. His easy smile and genuinely good heart made him great to work with, particularly on difficult issues. His passing will be a loss to everyone who was lucky enough to get to know him. The loss to his family must be enormous, but I would hope that his wonderful legacy will be a comfort to them, now and in the future.

*Jim Martin,
VNA/VNA Extended
Home Care Board of Directors*

“Enduring love of life”

I will always think of Andy’s enduring love of life, his exuberant smile and laugh, his pride in and dedication to his family, and his unparalleled service to our community. In addition, his love and devotion for Joyce shone through everything he did. I shall miss him on so many levels.

*Susan Delaney,
VNA/VNA Extended
Home Care Board of Directors*

“Always willing”

Andy never refused to take on a task. He was always willing to take an office or do what was necessary to further the work of the VNA.

*Joanne Torrance,
Secretary,
VNA Board of Directors*