



REMEMBERING PITCH

By now many of you are aware that the APWU lost a giant in our labor movement, Bob Pitchalonis, who was both a local and state officer and though he may not be well known outside the Tri-State area, his tireless work traveled much further. Pitch passed away peacefully on Sunday June 7, 2015 surrounded by his loving family. His lovely wife of 50 plus years, Rita, was right by his side. Pitch loved his family dearly as he spoke about them very fondly over the years.

PITCH's POSTAL/UNION CAREER

He was hired in March 1986 as he started a new career after 30 years with the Baker's Union. He got involved right from the start when he raised his hand during his postal orientation and advised everyone in his class to join the union. Mike Gallagher and I knew we had a leader from day one. He went on to become a steward and Step 2 designee at the BBM Annex and then at the BMC. He held several officer positions on the local executive board, including Clerk Craft Director during our peak years when we had the most clerks ever under the local's jurisdiction. He later became an officer on the PPWU executive board adding his wisdom for the members of the State. He became an arbitration advocate and was damn good at it, making sure all of his arguments were covered. His handling of grievances was second-to-none. He put together documents referred to as PAIRS (Pitch's Arbitration Information Retrieval System). These were arbitration decisions covering many different contract articles that were beneficial for anyone handling grievances for APWU or other postal unions for that matter. The one quirk many were amused by, was when one of those arbitrator decisions were received in the mail and Pitch was the one opening the envelope, look out, if it was against the Union, he would go ballistic. He wore his heart on his union sleeve and was loved by everyone for his hard work, except maybe by the labor people. But truthfully, they respected "The Old Man". I think I may have nicknamed him this because he came to us when he was around 50, almost twice the age of many of us at the time. He was a firecracker and certainly someone we were extremely fortunate to have on our side. Pitch retired in 1997 with the USPS after 11 years. He wanted to continue to work for his second love, the APWU. The local EB found a way to make that work. He became our officer manager for well over a decade, handling matters over the union hall so others could do their union work at the plant. We became so used to Pitch finding a file, creating binders with

important settlements and just keeping everything organized. Back in 2011, the local honored him at a union meeting, sneaking his family into the union hall while Pitch sat in his normal spot to the left of the head table. (Pitch to the left, not a surprise) I am very thankful we were able to do that and for the many who showed up to share their thoughts about him. It was well-deserved and fun to catch him off guard. His legacy will live on for future APWU activists and the memories will last a lifetime. He was one-of-a-kind and would do anything for a member in their time of need. He had a great smile and wasn't afraid to share his opinion whether it was about the Union, Politics or his Philadelphia sports teams. Pitch and his wife Rita celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August. We sang happy birthday to him at the November 2014 GMM when he turned 80. He has touched many lives during his close to 30 years with the APWU and will be missed by many. He is survived by his lovely wife Rita, two beautiful daughters, Rhea and Joanne, and three grandchildren, Kelsie, Brandon and Sarah.

REST IN PEACE, OUR BROTHER, PITCH!!!!!!

Vince Tarducci, President