



Andrew C Steele

January 30, 1943 - April 16, 2020

Andrew C. Steele, creative entrepreneur and Ft. Myers business owner.

Born in northeastern Pennsylvania, Andrew Steele earned B.S.E.E. and M.B.A. degrees from Penn State University. In 1967, following graduation, he moved to Florida with his wife and daughter. He often commented that the move to Florida was one of the best decisions he ever made. In 1969, Andy and his family purchased their first business, a 100-lot mobile home park in Lakeland, FL. From 1970 to 1982, he developed a number of other properties in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. In 1984, his business life took a new turn when he opened Fleamasters Fleamarket on a 40-acre tract next to his RV Resort in Pasco County. He loved the market, and he loved the idea of helping hundreds and hundreds of people realize their dream of owning their own small business. In 1986, Andy opened a sister market on S.R. 82 in Ft. Myers, Fleamasters Fleamarket. He sold the Pasco market to move to Ft. Myers and manage his new flea market full-time. It became his great passion. He loved the flea market business, his golden retrievers, and his Ft. Myers family and friends. Andy enjoyed polka and bluegrass music, travel, and life-long learning. He was a great friend to the Nations Association Charities, and provided mentorship and college scholarships for many local high school students.

In his late 50's, Andy was diagnosed with an Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a condition that can result in serious lung or liver disease. Like everything else in his life, Andy met the challenge head-on. He joined the board of the Alpha-1 Foundation, a non-profit group providing Alpha-1 education, support and medical research. In 2017, Andy received a lung transplant. He lost his battle to Alpha-1 on April 16, 2020, at the age of 77. In remembrance, his family asks that donations be made to the Alpha-1 Foundation, Alpha1.org.

Comments



“ Rest In Peace Andy Thank you for being a blessing in my life! Your memories will always keep me smiling.

Here is my tribute:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bruceweinstein/2020/05/04/whos-your-mamaw-eight-leaders-reveal-who-guides-them-during-trying-times/>



Angelica - May 16 at 01:44 AM



“ Hi boss you still owe me 10\$.miss you

Ron seils - May 10 at 07:01 PM



“ I'm Barney Draper, was friends with Andy Steel for 28 years. I was in 5 countries and Las Vegas with him. Played golf with him on some of the best golf courses in the world. Do I have memories, you bet I do, could write a book on our friendship. I saw him do a lot things for people and help people that were down and out. If I had to describe him, when you are a kid you want to grow up and be like Andy Steel. And when you do grow up , you wish you were like him, a man and a good person . My wife Edith and I will miss you and your friendship. R.I.P. my good friend

Barney Draper - April 27 at 05:32 PM



“ From a former employee's perspective, Mr. Steele was the most considerate, caring and trustworthy employer a person could ever have known. He gave you a chance to prove yourself and made you feel like one of the 'family', not only his real family but the numerous group of employees who worked for him for years, and there were many.
My sincerest condolences to the family and know that he will truly be missed. Lin
Tipton

Linell Tipton - April 26 at 04:58 PM