



From the Director

by Ann Dugger

"If you permit it, you promote it"

Anyone reading the accolades about Ted Hires since his death in December might think it's all a bit much, maybe overblown or exaggerated. And I can understand that reaction. Ted was no saint - he'd be the first to emphasize that fact - but what he gave to all of us who knew him will forever be a part of who we are.

I learned so much from Ted - about living life, running a business, setting and accomplishing goals. A successful "self-made" businessman, he had strong convictions by which he lived every day, and he expected those who worked with him to do the same.

He was interested in history, read a lot and adopted many maxims and principles of effective, successful people as his own. At his funeral Judge Lance Day and Undersheriff Frank Mackesy related several "Ted-isms" and we all smiled, thinking of the ones we often heard.

"If you permit it, you promote it" was one of the first things he told me. He talked about how our values and principles come into play in every aspect of our

lives - at work, at home, in the community.

"Tell the truth, no matter what the cost." Many times elected officials and other city leaders didn't want to hear his evaluation of their decisions or actions, and sometimes neither did I. There is no telling how many times he told me, "You have to look with clarity and speak from your heart and always tell the truth."

"Perception is reality," he would say, and he demanded a commitment from the Justice Coalition to always have a loving, caring attitude to victims seeking our help. He made sure a friendly voice greeted callers to the Justice Coalition instead of a recording listing automated options.

"Everything should have a home" was another favorite saying, and sometimes people in his organization dreaded when he came into the office. Ted demanded order in his environment. He was thrifty and insisted we get maximum benefit from supplies. I'm also a firm believer in saving various items for future use; for example, large sheets of poster board can be reversed to use both sides. But if Ted decided to go through our storage closet, he would toss

what he considered trash into the garbage. Of course, when he left I'd retrieve what he discarded and store it again.

Every day of his life he had a to-do list of what he expected to accomplish that day, and he would mark off each goal when completed. He drilled into me the importance of having a punch list of tasks and supplies needed for events and speaking engagements and following the list in detail. He would say, "Improper planning on your part does not institute an emergency on my part."

Ted passionately believed that one person, one voice, can really make a difference wherever one lives, or with whom one comes in contact. "Together we can, together we will, make a difference" was a favorite quote, and he loved Margaret Meade's statement: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." And Edmund Burke's famous line: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Despite his "hard-nosed" manner of dealing with issues, Ted elicited great respect and loyalty from associates, friends

and the community. Jim Bailey, owner of Bailey Publishing and Communications, Inc., who has been a friend and supporter from the Justice Coalition's beginning, said of his first meeting with Ted, "Not only was he tenacious, determined and driven, he was bullheaded, confrontational and relentless in his quest to succeed. Looking back, when he asked for help, I'm not aware of a single time anyone told this person 'no'."

The Justice Coalition's first computer was donated by another great friend, Bill Gay (W.

W. Gay Contractors, Inc.), who is still supporting us after 14 years and is the title sponsor for the 7th annual TOGETHER WE CAN campaign breakfast on the 19th. And I can think of so many more - too numerous to mention here - who steadfastly aligned themselves with Ted and his vision to make Jacksonville a better place to live. Thank you one and all for your continued loyalty and support.

I feel bereft today. A big chunk of my life is missing, but I'm a better person for having known Ted Hires. May he rest in peace.

www.PrayJacksonville.org

More than 100 people dedicated to pray for our community gathered in January for the monthly PRAY JACKSONVILLE! meeting. This month's event was especially planned to lift up city leaders, elected officials, judicial and law enforcement personnel, many of whom joined us for the prayer meeting and catered lunch provided by Mr. Bill Gay.

We urge all praying Christians who believe God can change lives and the crime situation in our city to join us on the second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at 524 Stockton Street (W. W. Gay Mechanical Contracting, Inc.). The next meeting will be February 10.

In the meantime, please visit our website - www.prayjacksonville.org - and indicate the time you will commit to pray for our city. James 5:16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Ezekiel, 7:23: Make a chain, for the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence.

II Chronicles, 7:14: If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Faith Corner

The Faith Community holds the key to true Restorative Justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept. The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support in our quest for this goal of compassion and understanding:

Inspirational Thought


Show thy marvelous loving kindness, O thou that saves by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings. - Psalm 17:7-8

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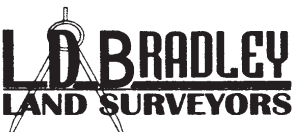
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