

## AHERN ADVISORY

### A Tribute to Harrison

#### Several weeks ago, I lost a very good employee and a very nice man, Harrison Peddie;

- Harrison was a Senior Analyst with Ahern.
- He had a great career in the transportation industry, prior to joining our team.
- He was a Certified Transportation Broker, in his previous employment.
- As a consultant, he guided two trucking companies through the Chapter 11 process, and;
- He also owned his own business.

#### However, retirement did not “sit” well with Harrison, so he came to work for my firm.

The minute that I met him, I knew he was someone special;

- He was a man with character.
- A man with integrity, and;
- A man that you could tell had some physical challenges, but did not let those challenges get in the way of becoming a productive part of my organization.

#### When I first interviewed Harrison, he had a large medical set back and he came to the office in a walker for his interview;

- He apologized for his medical condition.
- He explained that something had happened, that was causing him issues with his health, but;
- He wanted a job, and wanted to work. He indicated he brought a substantial amount of experience and expertise to the industry.

#### I hesitated, at first, but then hired him. It was probably one of the best decisions I’ve made in my life;

- He immediately identified with clients.
- He immediately identified with their challenges.
- He immediately had 8 or 10 solutions to every customers problems, and;
- He was always a very positive influence in my company.

#### Several customers wrote me after his passing stating;

- “Harrison was a very kind and gentle man, the kind of man I think our creator wants us all to be like.”

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# THE AHERN ADVISORY

## in this issue

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Ahern & Associates, Ltd.

Accredited Member  
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Consultants Inc.

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- One customer wrote; “thank you, Andy, for the opportunity of letting me get to know and work with Harrison”
- **Another customer wrote, “Harrison embodied the description of ethics, integrity, honesty and true caring”.**

**Unfortunately, Harrison had to take a medical leave of absence on July 28, 2010.** When he took that leave of absence, the prognosis was not good;

- Harrison was battling cancer.
- He indicated that he needed to go through his medical processes, but;
- **He wanted to know that he was always welcomed back at Ahern; which he was.**

**As Harrison began his medical challenges, the inevitable took place – the cancer started ravishing his body.** Yet, Harrison was not the type of person to quit. He called me one day and said;

- I can’t come back to the office.
- I still want to be a productive part of society, and;
- **Is there anything you can have me do to have a feeling of self-worth and earn some income?**

**I decided to create a position for Harrison in our research and development department and, as usual no matter what you asked Harrison to do, he performed.** Approximately 3 weeks ago, I received an email from Harrison stating that he had beaten the cancer but now had other issues. **On September 24, 2011, Harrison passed on to (hopefully) a better place.**

**What’s unique about Harrison Peddie;**

- He physically suffered, but never complained.
- He was always concerned about other people.
- He was always concerned about how my employees and myself were doing in the office, and;
- He was always grateful for his time that he spent with my firm.

**Most importantly, even though he was facing death;**

- He never complained.
- He treated each day as if it were a special gift from above, and;
- **Even though this devastating disease impacted him physically, mentally and financially; he never quit.**

**Harrison was truly a remarkable man.** Harrison was able to have a positive effect on people’s lives.

**In closing, if I was to sum up Harrison Peddie, it would be from another letter that I received from a client in which that client stated;** *“Mr. Peddie was an excellent individual. His life was sincere and meaningful. I’m glad to have been able to get to know him. Thank you for letting me know him. I am so sorry for your loss”.*

**What I learned from Harrison is; he tried to make everyone feel good about what they did.** He wanted people to feel that their opinions counted. He also wanted to ensure people that he could improve their financial situation. He was one of those firm believers that collaboration is encouraged; and you should be given time to bounce ideas off one another. **He embraced being a “think tank” and he was not afraid to stand his ground if he believed he was right.**

**Harrison epitomized what every employer looks for--honesty, integrity and work ethics.** While many employers feel there is a declining work ethic in our society, **once in a while someone like Harrison Peddie arrives, and changes your entire thought process.**

**There was a comment that was once written by Anne Landers, that I believe sums up Harrison Peddie.** In that comment, Anne stated that; “Class is an aura of confidence that is being sure without being cocky. Class has nothing to do with money. Class never runs scared. It is self-discipline and self-knowledge. It’s a sure footedness that comes without having proved you can meet life.” **Harrison was the epitome of class.**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “Laughter is not at all a bad beginning for a friendship, and it is by far the best ending for one.”** (Oscar Wild)