



In Remembrance of Pete Ray

It is with a heavy heart that I write that August 17, 2020 marked the passing of one of our chapter Past Presidents, Peter G. Ray. I first met Pete when I started working at The Benham Group in the 1990's. Pete was a passionate engineer, working on his designs with intensity, but always willing to stop and help out a young engineer like myself with the answer to a question, or even help me with my computer. When starting out in this industry, a person really grows to appreciate those who provide help and direction, and Pete was one of the people I certainly appreciated. I remember when Pete left the consulting side of the business to become an "owner" and direct the operations at the OU Health Sciences Center. He was such a good design engineer I was surprised when he made the move, but Pete was one who always wanted to learn new things and he wanted to get closer to the mechanical systems he knew so much about. Pete was active in ASHRAE for about two decades, joining the society in the late 1980's, and becoming involved in the leadership in the 2000's, ultimately serving as Chapter President in 2009-10. It was Pete himself who approached me that year after a chapter meeting concluded and asked me if I wanted to move through the chairs and become president. I remember telling him "No, I'm not really interested. I don't think I could get up in front of this group each week and run the meeting. I'd be a nervous wreck." Then, Pete put his hand on my shoulder, looked me square in the eye and said "Dusty... you can do this." After a long pause with Pete looking straight at me with confidence, I said "Okay, I'll do it." He submitted my name to the nominating committee who followed up with me and I was voted in as a chapter officer the next year. I will sincerely miss him.

Pete's obituary can be found at this link: https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/edmond-ok/peter-ray-9314580?fbclid=IwAR0LNEItSw8ti_kbDtM9y-oA38omC3JzUlaDEK4g_W097nHpGrFJcoWtJE

Dusty Stoabs, PE, LEED AP
ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Historian



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