



RESOLUTION – EDWARD C. RUBATINO

PREAMBLE

Fellow Rotarian and Past President Edward Carlo Rubatino, a prominent area business owner and community benefactor, was born in Everett on February 5, 1931, and died peacefully at his home on June 28, 2022.

Ed grew up in Everett and Lake Stevens. He attended grade school at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Everett, high school at St. Martin's in Lacey, and college at Seattle University.

He was an avid boater and spent most summers plying the San Juan and Canadian Gulf Islands, occasionally pushing further north to Desolation Sound, through the Inside Passage, and, at times, to Alaska.

Ed was a youngster when he started boating. Together with his younger brother, Fran, they would rent a tiny skiff with a correspondingly tiny outboard and, armed with but a handheld compass, set off to chase salmon in the greater Puget Sound.

He parlayed that experience on the water into service with the United States Coast Guard, eventually retiring with a Commander's rank. The equivalent rank in the United States Army and Air Force is a lieutenant colonel. His time serving in the Arctic aboard a buoy tender and light icebreaker gave him a lifetime of stories.

Past President Andy Hall said, "I was fresh out of Coast Guard boot camp and assigned to a reserve unit in Everett in the early 70s. Ed was now a leader in the Coast Guard Reserve after his active-duty career and was the unit's Executive Officer. Kaye Phinney's husband Bud was also in Ed's unit."

Ed joined the Rotary Club of Everett in 1959 and was president in 1977. The practice of Happy Bucks among Rotary Clubs throughout our region started with our club during that year as Ed tried to raise a buck in a way that might also increase fellowship at the same time.

And raise bucks it did, particularly when Ed and Past President and Past District Governor Tom Rainville went at it. On the screen you see Ed on the left, then Tom, along with Past President Kathy DeTuerk.

When Ed and Tom got into their weekly sparring match during Happy Bucks, the rest of us sat back and fastened our seat belts for the joy ride. You could count on each of them doing their best to throw the other under the bus. The trick was to see how much they could get the other guy to pay. They managed to publicly pick each other's pockets so deeply during Happy Bucks that it is reputed to have made our annual club budgeting a lot easier. For those of you not around during those heydays, well, you missed it.

Ed was part of another first for our club. The first father/daughter combo as president, with Rose Rubatino Goulet as partner in that duo. The club's only other parent-child presidency was our first president and founder Clayton Williams in 1916 and his son Parker Williams in 1966.

Ed was Rose's sponsor when she joined Rotary. She became club president in 2006.

"I encouraged her to join," said Ed during an interview with The Herald. "She paid her dues both at work and at Rotary and has worked hard. I'm very proud of her. And she raised two good boys at the same time," he said.

Rubatino Refuse Removal has been generous to our community, our club, and Emma Larson from Everett High School, the most recent recipient of the Rubatino college scholarship.

And what about that company?

For more than a century, since 1907, Rubatino Refuse Removal has been collecting the city of Everett's trash.

Ed's grandfather Angelo Rubatino and two partners founded the business during a winter when there was no work at the Black Diamond coal mines in the Cascades, where he and his fellow Italian immigrants were the bulk of the labor force. It was hard and dangerous work and those who could went on to other enterprises.

Rose put it simply, "They got a horse and started picking up trash."

Angelo's son, Henry, who was Ed's father, was soon invited to join. Henry is seen in the photo standing next to his horse and wagon.

Rose said, "Then Henry's brother Fred joined the business, then his son Tom, then my dad, and then me."

In 1957, after college and his Coast Guard active duty, Ed joined his father to help run the family enterprise. Ed Rubatino, who might well be dubbed the Iron Man of Waste Haulers, actively ran the operation for 67 years until its sale a few months ago.

While a generous man, the deep-seated nature of what his family called his "Genovese frugality" stayed with him. With rare exceptions, they say, he eschewed the finer things and might rather pack his clothes in a grocery bag than a piece of luggage.

Being frugal means keeping a keen eye. Ed, of all people, understood the notion of one person's trash being another person's treasure, so when Ed came across a deal on some soon-to-be-retired meter maid vehicles, he cornered the market.

He then had them all modified to accept trash. These zippy little scooters that navigate tight alleyways and side streets brought innovation, greater speed, and increased cost-effectiveness to this community service.

Ed sold the company to three families in the industry for generations. "My father wanted to keep the business a family business," said Rose, herself a Rubatino fourth-generation owner.

"The fifth generation has taken a different route," Rose said. "One of my sons is a physician; the other in the outdoor equipment business."

This is a story of The American Dream writ large: from the coal mines to medicine and business.

Last January 1, the new owners took over the Everett company, keeping the Rubatino name.

Ed loved spending time with family and friends on the water, at family dinners in Lake Stevens, Tulare Beach, Sun Valley, Maui, or while fishing. He loved traveling to Asia, Europe, and St. Barts with his wife, MariLana.

In addition to Ed's Rotary activities, he served on numerous boards, a few of which were the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association, Catholic Community Services, Hospice, Snohomish County Solid Waste Advisory Council, and the Tulare Beach Association.

His dedication to the Everett and Snohomish County area was apparent by his long-time support of the Providence Foundation, Providence Hospice, St. Mary Magdalen and St. John's Parish, and other regional philanthropic organizations.

Ed is survived by his wife MariLana and daughters Rose Goulet and Shelly Rubatino, along with Rose's children Denny and Dave, plus four great-grandchildren, as well as MariLana's children and their families, in addition to numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services are to be held at St. Mary Magdalen church in South Everett this coming Saturday, August 27 at 10:30 AM, with a reception to follow at the Everett Golf and Country Club.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Ed Rubatino was a dedicated business and community leader whose intellect and vision enabled him to accomplish a wide variety of important goals that benefited our community and region, and

WHEREAS, Ed Rubatino exhibited a genuine and abiding interest in the health and well-being of others, and

WHEREAS, Ed Rubatino believed in, acted in accordance with, and was a firm proponent of Rotary's principled motto: Service Above Self, and

WHEREAS, each of us have been blessed by the presence of Ed Rubatino in our lives and in the Rotary Club of Everett.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Rotary President Tammy Dunn be charged with the duty of placing a copy of this Resolution in the hands of Ed's family so that they may know of both the high esteem in which we hold Ed and the great fondness in our hearts for his memory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the membership of the Rotary Club of Everett united here together, stand and observe a moment of silence in honor of our departed friend, Ed Rubatino.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I affix my hand and seal this Twenty-Third Day of August 2022:

Robert Bavasi
Chair, Resolutions Committee
Rotary Club of Everett

ATTEST:

Tammy Dunn
President
Rotary Club of Everett

ATTEST:

Cathryn Cole
Secretary
Rotary Club of Everett