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Engineering • Surveying • Planning

The View from Andy's Desk

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September 7, 2012-Andrew R. Cassano is a City/Regional Planner and Professional Land Surveyor with over 43 years of experience in Northern California. He is CEO of Nevada City Engineering, Inc., a firm offering regional planning, surveying, and civil engineering consulting to the private and public sector since 1978.

Tom Lott Retires

Congratulations and best wishes to my lifelong friend and colleague, Tom Lott. Tom retired from our firm at the end of August after a remarkable 43 year career as a talented civil engineer that designed more community infrastructure in the region than you will ever know.

Tom and I met at Nevada Union High in the sixties. I had friends that were either smart, or athletic, or popular, or handsome. Tom was one of the few people I ever knew that had it all. Tom attended UC-Berkeley during the turbulent Viet Nam War years, and graduated with a degree in engineering. Not long after, he passed the rigorous State exams to become registered civil engineer RCE 24867.

We worked together at Cranmer Engineering on the Tahoe Donner community in Truckee and numerous other projects in the Nevada County region. Later, our careers split as he co-founded Nevada City Engineering, Inc. with brother-in-law Ken Baker in 1978 while I ran my individual practice next door on Coyote Street. In 1998, I joined Nevada City Engineering, Inc. and we became business partners, along with Ken Baker, Bill Green, and John Baker.

Tom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in his late twenties. Despite his advancing disability, Tom enjoyed an amazing career helping hundreds of private and public clients with carefully designed streets, drainage systems, grading plans, utility layouts, commercial, institutional, and multi-family sites, retaining walls, and wood frame structural components. A few project examples include Sierra College, Whispering Pines Business Park, Glenbrook



Apartments, Broad Street Commons, Wolf Creek Village, Chapa De Clinic, and the new CHP office under construction on McCourtney Road.

You were in good hands with Tom on your side. He gave his clients' jobs thought and advocacy above and beyond the call of duty, often calling our firm's answering machine in the middle of the night with reminders to further client work and progress.

Being around Tom's constant talent and charisma has been an outstanding privilege for our partners and staff. He was always easy to talk to, thoughtful, and he showed us all a deep and genuine respect as his co-workers.

So, it's a bittersweet event here at Nevada City Engineering, Inc., as we recognize an incredible man and his incredible career. We all wish a him a long and happy retirement. No, we tried to throw a party, but Tom won't have it. So send your well wishes to his email tom@nevadacityengineering.com or via our firm (contact information above). And, yes, Tom has agreed to help us as needed with background on clients' projects.

Thanks for everything that you've taught me so far, Tom. See you on Sundays for some NFL football.