

In Memory

February, 2020

I met Allan Lipsett in the summer of 2005 when we were both members of the Marietta Kiwanis Club. At the time, I was transitioning from operating a chiropractic office for someone else to building my very own, nearer to my own home.

I always wanted to write about my profession and became aware that Allan and his wife, Cathy, were publishers of a small, local paper. That was just the thing I wanted to do: to be useful in my own community.

I approached Allan about writing a column one day as we were leaving a Kiwanis meeting. He told me the paper had had other chiropractors write before but none of them stuck with it and wondered if I would? I said I would stick with it. He made one polite suggestion to me: "Give it six months before you decide on its effectiveness".

I told him, "OK, I'll commit to a YEAR!" He chuckled as we shook hands and that was the beginning of this column and our harmonious fifteen-year relationship. I will always be grateful for the latitude he allowed me in the length and subject matter of my writings.

Allan had a way of leading you in the right direction based on his vast experience without ever pushing. He also exuded authenticity when he communicated. He always spoke simply, economically and gracefully. He had the genuine voice of authority, inspiring confidence and trust. These qualities are very rare these days. Although we differed in manner we resonated together on principles of honor.

Over the years, Allan and I shared time, gatherings and meals together as part of groups, like the Vinings Connectors business group and there was usually a gentle smile on his face wherever we were.

Allan not only had large physical stature, but also formidable stature in the community, always leading, organizing, doing something constructive for others, and took very seriously his role in delivering important local news, making Smyrnans proud of where we live. Smyrna is a wonderful place indeed.

I would sometimes ply Allan for his perspective on current national and world events because of his long experience in the political world. His perspective was usually one from the 30,000-foot view, never getting excited or emotional. He was a rational, yet patient and loving man.

Allan enjoyed talking about his children and grandchildren and I was glad to meet them recently. He and Cathy made a very fine family. They have reason to be proud.

Allan was a long time skeptic of chiropractic but, over the years, heard me deliver many speeches and finally approached me for my help. He remained with me until the very end. It was an honor to serve him, to know him personally, and as a friend. I will miss him greatly. It is upon the shoulders of such men as Allan Lipsett, that American communities were built, one block at a time, adding to the great strength of our Nation. May we all make our own contributions, in our own way, to the same purpose.

Dr. Derek Conte

