

Steve Medeiros, Thank You



(from page 1) grown tomatoes,” and indeed, Steve loved his wife Lynn, his children and their children dearly. He protected fish and family with equal, formidable effort. He was a gentleman.

Among RISAA’s notable achievements was helping negotiate a fair arrangement for saltwater fishing licenses. As one writer observed, “The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association worked deliberately to ensure monies raised by state license sales, minus administrative costs, are spent directly on projects which benefit saltwater anglers so your monies don’t get sucked into that financial quagmire called The General Fund.” That dedicated fund promise was a major league achievement of negotiation, but smooth seas never made a skilled sailor; Steve had vision, ample passion and stamina. That busy Galilee boat ramp is just one example of how RISAA ensured license fees were reinvested for fishermen and women.

Thank you Steve.

I have kept the faith

He was laid to rest at Saint’s John and Paul Church in his Coventry hometown, with incense drifting along hard wooden pews of kneeling, sorrowful friends. Christian masses and burials practice sacred rituals and rites; Steve Medeiros protected those personal rituals we anglers love and often take for granted, even while fishing the very shores of Galilee. Starting engines at false dawn on bluebird striper days, passing rods to young anglers, launching kayaks into the lovely ink of nighttime, walking rows of vendors at the Saltwater Fishing Show on cold March afternoons; all these are rituals for those devoted to the sea for which Steve fought every day. RISAA member John Brierley noted, “He was always fair and considerate. A true advocate for fishing enthusiasts.” As we ramble our way through such short lives, what’s a more fitting tribute than to be remembered as someone fair and considerate?

Thank you Steve.

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness. 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Steve and I enjoyed regular, cyclical conversations whenever some Fish Wrap post caught his eye. “The March newsletter is full, but if you let me print it, I’ll make room!” he wrote a few years back, knowing full well that my words were his to share whenever he wished. It is no small honor, to be printed in the RISAA newsletter. “Here I am again, back seeking to reprint another piece...It’s a segment out of your most recent column of fishing with Greg Vespe...” Of course Steve always asked first. “You know I want to print this one!” he wrote very recently. He was always the gentleman yet I never made clear how much I admired him. I remain humbled by his leadership, humility, generosity and passion. In my mind’s eye, he still sits at his desk, hosting yet another ZOOM meeting, keeping order, leading the way, working tirelessly on behalf of fishermen and women and for all those fish we are blessed to catch and release.

Thank you Steve.

For Steve Medeiros, a policeman’s prayer, completing his well lived life of service.

Lord, I ask for courage: courage to face and conquer my own fears; courage to take me where others will not go. I ask for strength; strength of body to protect others; strength of spirit to lead others. I ask for dedication: dedication to my job to do it well; dedication to my community to keep it safe. Give me, Lord, concern: concern for all those who entrust me; and compassion for those who need me; and please, Lord, through it all, be at my side.

Todd Corayer, an active RISAA member and expert light tackle and kayak fly fisher and guide, has been the quest speaker at a number of RISAA seminars. He is a lifelong fisherman and occasional hunter whose writing relies on sarcasm and other people’s fish stories while seeing words as puzzle pieces that occasionally all fit together perfectly. You can read more New England fishing reports and stories at www.fishwrapwriter.com.



Thank you Steve: volunteers at Take-a-Kid Fishing, including author Todd Corayer (third from left).