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May 3, 2010

Dear Marge,

I was so very sorry to learn Duane passed away. As I was telling someone the other day, he was the epitome of a true "gentleman". I feel fortunate to have known him; for me the world just isn't the same knowing he's no longer here among us.

I've been retired from WPI for 5 years now. When I think back on my years in fire protection engineering, I can honestly say that memories of Duane Pearsall are among my fondest. He was not only a joy to work with on a personal level, but professionally he was one of my real heroes. He personally did more to save lives from fire than any individual who ever lived. When the battery operated smoke detector hit the market, American fire deaths started to decline precipitously, now down 50% from pre-detector levels. Wow!

I know he is especially missed by you and the family. Susannah and I send along our heartfelt condolences on your loss. Like you, we are profoundly grateful for the life he shared and for the many contributions he made to the world around him.

David Lucht