

August 24, 2013

RE: Frank (Sully) Sullivan

Growing up in the Lewiston/Clarkston valley, both my wife Claudia and I were familiar with Frank (Sully) Sullivan and American Insurance. We knew of Sully because of his association with the Lewiston Roundup and his many other civic activities.

My first personal encounter with Sully was about 1988 when he rejoined the Idaho Army National Guard. I was the commander of Lewiston's 116th Engineer Battalion, and it took no time for Sully and me to establish a close professional and personal friendship. Because of Sully's military background, leadership skills, and positive "can do" attitude, he quickly became a trusted advisor for not only me, but also for other officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers throughout the battalion. His sense of humor, humility, professionalism, and "heart of gold" were unique traits that I will never forget. Having Sully by my side was one of the highlights of not only my three years as battalion commander, but also the following 25 years when we were able to count Sully and Dee as dear friends.

Another great memory took place about 1999. Claudia and I were in McCall on a weekend get away from Boise. We knew where Sully and Dee's summer home was, so we drove by to see if they were in town. To our surprise, we saw that the home was for sale. Our first thought was a concern that they were both OK. When we got back to Boise, we called and found out they were fine. Telling them about our concerns when we saw their home for sale, Sully immediately asked, "Are you two interested in buying the place"? I remember telling him that it was beautiful; however it was doubtful that we could afford such a home. His response was classic Sully, "Well kids, you'll never know unless you first take a look and then we can talk again". The next day we received, via express mail, a package containing a key, the home's drawings and specifications, and a note that said, "Here you go, take a look, and remember the water's turned off, so please don't use the toilets".

The next week we took another trip to McCall and toured that lovely home. When we returned to Boise, I called Sully. I told him that we just loved the place, but unless we could sell one of our Boise rentals, there was no way we could consider buying in McCall. Sully's reply was typical, "We took the home off the market today, so we'll just wait until you sell your rental". Within a month or two our rental sold, and shortly thereafter we were the proud owners of the home on Pilgrim Cove Road, complete with furniture, pots and pans, and all other household belongings.

To this day, if God were to allow Sully and Dee to pay us a visit, they would feel right at home. We have kept their beautiful house pretty much just the way they had it.

God bless them both for gracing us with the honor of their friendship.

Sincerely,

Larry and Claudia Lafrenz