

Replacement hard to find for N.A.A.'s Felix

Association seeking testimonials to industry leader, to be included in special publication.

The National Arborist Association is taking its time finding a replacement for its long-time executive vice president Robert Felix, who had held that post since 1974. Felix served as NAA's president in 1972.

Felix died of heart failure early the morning of Sept. 23rd.

"Anyone who knew Bob also knew that he was a rare soul: A true and compassionate leader, and a genuinely good man," said the current NAA Board of Directors in a letter to its membership. "Bob's vision, leadership and incredible dedication were critical to the growth and development of the NAA."

Career-long service

A graduate of Adelphi University, Felix began his career in tree care with Harder Tree & Landscape Service in Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. Felix has served as president of the Hempstead Rotary, and the Long Island Arborist Association.

"In 1974, Bob began carving a path for the growth, education and professionalism

of commercial tree care," wrote his wife Pat, in a special issue of the association newsletter.

"He lived to see NAA members elevate their levels of professionalism. His guidance will be sorely missed, but the principles and practices that he established to lead the NAA will continue on."

Felix is survived by his



Robert Felix 1934-1996

wife Patricia Felix; sons Andrew and Peter; daughter Barbara; five grandchildren; and a brother, Warren.

Trust to be established

The Association reports that a permanent memorial trust will be established in Felix's name. Pledges may be sent to the National Arborist Foundation, The Meeting Place Mall, Rt. 101/P.O. Box 1094,

Amherst, NH 03031-1094.

Until a replacement is found for Felix, the NAA's directors and existing office staff are overseeing administrative functions of the Amherst, N.H. headquarters office. The association is accepting testimonials from individuals who would like to write in with remembrances of Bob Felix, to be included in a special commemorative publication. □

Legislative update: pesticide issues continue

WASHINGTON, DC—The 104th Congress is over, and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) reports some important bills have been passed during this last session that affect users of specialty chemicals.

Most important is an EPA appropriations bill which gives \$30 million for research and implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Of that, \$10 million has been earmarked for pesticide residue data collection for use in risk assessment activities. The remaining funds will be split between the drinking water and pesticide programs.

The RISE State Report reveals the following activity:

Maine: The Green Party—the party of presidential candidate Ralph Nader—seeks to ban clear cutting timber and herbicide use on private land. A coalition of timber interests and environmental groups has an alternate plan. Voters will get to choose between a ban, the coalition plan or neither. In other news, Maine anti-pesticide advocates want to make pesticide contamination of state waters a felony offense. RISE says defensive strategies are being considered.

Oregon: People may be able to choose any health care provider of their choice, and insurance carriers would have to pay those providers. This would allow Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (formerly Multiple Chemical Sensitivity) sufferers to gain access to health care using clinical ecologists.

Maryland: The state's Department of Agriculture moves forward with notification regulations, which RISE supports. Activists want to legislate against pesticide use in schools.

Montana: The Missoula city council wants to pass pre-notification requirements for pesticide applications. □