

Vern Watts' album of letters - Remembering Vern

24 Apr 2009

Dear Carol,

To many of us Vern, the renowned Father of IMS, also filled a very important role as the organizational "Father" for the IMS Family. When technical arguments arose among us "siblings", we'd often go to Vern to settle the dispute. Like a good father, after listening to us, he would point out where we got it right, where we got it wrong, and how to move forward. To me, his rational, honest and fair approach to solving problems and his generally "open door" policy helped the team deal effectively with technical issues without rancor. Vern always made me feel welcome when I visited him, and I think that was generally true for everyone. His willingness and interest in staying involved in the life and health of IMS continued to the end. Not long ago I had the good fortune to attend a meeting in which his recall of detail and the crispness of his analysis of a database problem astounded me. This exhibition of his mental vitality and force made his sudden passing so unexpected and shocking.

My deepest sympathy on your loss,

Ron Blake

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