

# Remembering Vern

April 23, 2009

Dear Carol,

I first met Vern in 1976 or early '77 shortly after joining the IMS organization in Palo Alto. I was told that I should talk to Vern about the project that I was starting to work on. At that first meeting I was so new and green that I had only an inkling of who Vern was, but I was certainly impressed and just a little intimidated when I discovered that his office was up front near the lab director's office and not back in the IMS corner where the rest of us shared offices. I soon learned more about Vern, his role and accomplishments and his importance in the organization, and was duly awed, but realized as well a day or so later that he was also a regular guy when he stopped by my office to talk to me.

I've always had high regard for Vern and it has been my pleasure to have worked with him over the long years I spent in IMS, up to and beyond Vern's "retirement", until my retirement a few years ago. And at times I was one of the regulars at the IMS lunch table in the cafeteria where Vern held court with his humor and wit.

In my early years and even in my later years it would sometimes occur to me that the more my knowledge of the IMS product grew the more aware I became of just how much there was to know, and at those times Vern would usually come to mind and I'd wonder how do you ever get to be that knowledgeable and smart. Of course, I never did. But fortunately Vern's door was always open and I could always go to him to partake of his knowledge and wisdom as I often did. And I have been privileged and grateful to have had Vern's help, encouragement and support on my own path at IBM.

I extend my condolences to you and the entire family. I will be out of town on April 25 and really regret that I will not be able to attend the memorial service or participate in the celebration of Vern's life. We've lost a great person who lived a great life, a legend. I'm honored to have known Vern and to have had him in my life.

Sincerely,

..Karen Ranson