

My friend, Tim Quinn-

How to start? Maybe, first with my sympathies for Tim's immediate family Gloria, Padraig, Danny and Shannon. And to those here who loved him. That would be all of us. He had that impact on people. Pretty much on everyone with whom he interacted more than once. A rare gift. I will miss that about him.

I remember the day when he told me about Gloria. It was warm and we were standing in a parking lot. I had never seen this very happy guy so happy. When he talked about his kids he had a look of happiness, pride, joy. He was a great father and husband. I will miss that about him.

Our Tim wasn't an easy person. People with strong principles and a clear vision mostly aren't. What he was, was consistent. And kind. With Tim, you always knew he would come down on the "right" thing to do. Not that he wouldn't joke, change his mind three or four times, or keep asking questions. Just in the end, you knew it would be the right thing to do. I will miss that about him.

When Tim was your friend you got feedback and criticism, loving and mostly unsolicited. I think he did this to make the people he cared about better. I know it made me better, even when it was hard to take. I will miss that about him.

He had a way, when he was ahead of you, to hang back and help you along. When we used to run early in the mornings at meetings of The Arc or NCE, Tim would go ahead, and then loop back and encourage me to keep going. And I did. That was the easy part. The harder part was in trying to solve problems, so that people with disabilities and families would be better off. Tim would get there quickly, and be out ahead. And he would loop back and help the rest of us along. Gently, respectfully, firmly. I will miss that about him.

And then there were the jokes. Who knew so many jokes could include Priests and Rabbis? Or that a Baltimore accent could be turned into an Irish brogue so seamlessly? The pleasure on his face when he was telling a joke was evident. He told one, the last time I saw him in the hospital, and smiled all the way through it. He loved the telling. And the watching of your reaction. No matter how bad the joke. And, truth be told, most were bad. I will miss that about him.

Tim was persistent. Relentless, actually, in the pursuit of those things that people with disabilities and their families needed. Not just those who were supported by The Arc of the Northern Chesapeake, but in Annapolis and beyond. Something deep inside him seemed to rail against injustice, wanting things to be fair and decent and good. I will miss that about him.

We have lost one of the good ones. We were all better for knowing him. We just didn't know him long enough. But enough of being maudlin. Tim was a lot of things, but never that. Incredibly positive and optimistic. Someone who said "can do" when others just stood by and scratched their heads. Beating his head against the wall until the wall finally gave. I will miss that about him.

Tim taught in the University of Delaware's National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities from its inception. I was lucky to hear Tim talk about the journey he and The Arc of the Northern Chesapeake took during his tenure. I never tired of hearing him, and learned something new each time he spoke. I will miss that about him.

The work that was Tim's life is far from complete. The organization he led, The Arc of the Northern Chesapeake, will go on without his direct presence. Knowing Tim leads me to predict that it will continue to learn, grow and lead by example. For that, we are grateful to Tim.

Some days it appears that we take two steps back for each one forward in the journey toward making our communities welcoming to people with disabilities and their families. Other days are better. In Tim's memory we

should all redouble our efforts. I will use his memory, inspiration and values to continue moving forward. He would expect that of all of us I think. And maybe, one day, we will smile when thinking about him instead of crying. I look forward to that day.

*Steve Eidelman, January 14, 2010.*

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