

Remembering Steve Ciccantelli

Family, coworkers reflect on life of former Daily News publisher

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WEST BEND — Retired West Bend Daily News Publisher and Vice President of Sales Stephen "Steve" Ciccantelli, 68, passed away on June 15. As an active community member, family members and coworkers have fond memories of Ciccantelli.

"I would describe Steve as having a wonderful sense of humor, being very intelligent, driven, professional and fair — people used to say those words," said his wife, Angie Ciccantelli.

"It is hard to summarize my father and our relationship in just a few short words. He was my first love. My protector. My provider. My everything. He was my shoulder to cry on, my ear when I needed someone to listen, my rock when I needed strength," said his daughter, Alyssa Rose.

In 1993, Ciccantelli was first diagnosed with cancer and diagnosed with various forms of it in the following years. Altogether, Ciccantelli fought five different forms of cancer.

He received a bone marrow transplant in 2004.

After being cancer-free for 15 years, he developed lung cancer in 2019.

Ciccantelli was determined to attend all of his daughter's life milestones, like kindergarten, high school, college, her wedding and the birth of his grandson.

"He taught me how to drive a boat. He taught me my left from my right. He taught me to stand up for myself and fight for what I believe in. He taught me so many valuable things in life and I am so glad that I got him for a teacher," said Rose. "I cannot put into words how much I miss his smiling face and contagious laugh. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten."

In the late 1980s, Ciccantelli started his career with Conley Publishing Group at the Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, working in sales and advertising. He worked with Founder James Conley Jr. as



Submitted photo

Angie and Steve Ciccantelli enjoyed spending time at their lake house on Chain O Lakes in Waupaca. Steve Ciccantelli was an avid boater and loved going to the house, where the couple entertained friends and family.

the company acquired publications.

"I worked for and with Steve for many years. I'll always remember that he had a quip for just about everything," said Regional Advertising Director Jim Baumgart. "When he wanted me to give careful consideration to something, I was to noodle around with it for a while. But, whatever I decided, I shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater."

Baumgart said Ciccantelli was tenacious.

"He came to work every day, did his job and made no excuses, no matter how he felt. I admired him for that, how he persevered, and how hard he fought for things he believed in," he said.

Ciccantelli enjoyed traveling and boating at the family's lake home on Chain O Lakes in Waupaca.

"That's Steve's love," said Angie Ciccantelli. "He loved going there. He loved entertaining, hosting many friends and family."

They hosted family reunions at the lake home. Ciccantelli was also fond of his pontoon boat, which he was able to take out a few

times this year.

He was an avid Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers fan and attended Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans to see the Packers take home the Lombardi Trophy.

After working in the newspaper industry, Ciccantelli felt the importance of community involvement.

He was a member of the Rotary Club of West Bend, helping facilitate Enchantment in the Park, Seafood Fest at Regner Park and steak fries.

One of the couple's close friends was the co-chair of the Jewish Community Food Pantry in Milwaukee.

"Even at Easter time, he said, 'Let's give to the Jewish Food Pantry,'" said Angie Ciccantelli.

In lieu of flowers, he family requested that donations be made to the Jewish Community Food Pantry and American Cancer Society Research.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held last week at St. Francis Borgia Church in Cedarburg.

A public celebration of Ciccantelli's life will be held in 2021.