

To my fellow NAVHDA members,

It is with his great sadness that I send you this message.

NAVHDA's Past President Roland Drew was killed in a car accident the evening of November 25th, just three weeks shy of his 85th birthday. He had been on his way to his beloved deer camp in Maine; a weekend meant for enjoying the outdoors with his closest friends.

Roland was NAVHDA's greatest ambassador. He was a Senior Judge, Invitational Judge, a Clinic Leader and a long-time NAVHDA member. In his lifetime he judged 2305 dogs at 317 tests...impressive statistics that are unrivaled today. At various points he served as NAVHDA's Director of Promotions, Secretary and Treasurer as well as numerous offices in his local chapters.

Unbeknownst to most of his NAVHDA family, Roland was incredibly active in many other volunteer organizations. He believed in helping his fellow man as well as being involved in his community, serving as mayor and other volunteer positions. All while running a successful insurance agency and raising two children with his first wife. As a young man, Roland proudly served his country as a US Marine and fought in the Korean War. He revered the men he served with and often shared their stories of heroism. His love of country was second only to his love for his family.

Roland was famous for his story telling. He lived a full life with numerous hunting and fishing adventures as well as touring many foreign countries with his granddaughter and daughter. All of those trips resulted in tales that invariably left his audience in tears of laughter. Anyone who met Roland surely has their own story to tell.

Roland often said many of his closest friendships were forged from the organization he was so passionate about. His friends, which surely number in the hundreds, are spread across the United States and Canada. There have been many tears shed for the loss of this kind-hearted man with a zest for life.

For some of us, it's hard to imagine a world without Roland's devilish grin, hearty laugh and bear hugs that left you gasping for air. The world has lost a true patriot, loving father and grandfather, volunteer extraordinaire, hunter, fisherman, lover of dogs and the best friend you could ever have.

As we learn more details regarding memorial services, they will be posted on the NAVHDA website and Facebook page.

Marilyn Vetter