



The Connection™

Marvin's View

June 3, 2008

Our industry is going through a lot of changes and... *most* are for the good

But one area that is getting lost in the process is the recognition that Janitorial workers deserve. Automation has not changed most of the way the work is done. We still clean toilets, empty waste containers and mop floors. Hard work. Manual work. Independent work...and, too often, under appreciated work.



This week our company is remembering one of our industry's leaders. Dick McDevitt passed on 10 years ago today, but his efforts to make everyone understand the professionalism of the janitor, lives on. Dick was our first Director of Education and impacted thousands of janitors in many countries.

Janitors Protect our Health: Dick worked very hard to teach the world the important role Janitors, Housekeepers, Custodians and Maids play in protecting our health and the enormous value of our investment in our facilities. Because he cared, Dick helped get many hazardous cleaning processes eliminated.

Janitors Deserve Education: Dick set up Custodial Training for Schools, Hospitals, Prisons and Industry. He conducted the first Janitor seminars for countless organizations that had been in operation for decades. Back then the "education" a new Janitor received was to work a day with one of the "experienced" Janitors, and then given the keys. Dick changed that. Finally, Dick wrote the *E.Z. Trainer*, one of the most widely used custodial training manuals in history.

Janitors Need Recognition: If people respect the Janitor, it not only improves productivity but also reduces the amount of work in a process that we call "Preventive Housekeeping". In 1986, Dick helped initiate our [Janus Recognition Program](#) that, to the best of our knowledge, is still the only formal Janitor Recognition program in the world.

Janitors Protect the Environment: Twenty years ago Dick, in conjunction with the International Sanitary Supply Association, conducted a national speaking tour explaining the role our industry plays in this important area. Here is a [link](#) to an article from 1990. We know Dick would be so pleased to see that the message is finally beginning to make sense to our industry.

Janitors, like everyone else, enjoy humor: All of the above was done with love, respect and humor. Here is a [link](#) to a brochure on Dick's program, including some great photos and most of all, one of his favorite poems.

Dick loved our industry and worked every day to help Janitors gain the respect and support they deserved and is needed today as much as ever. We miss him and his inspiration. And we encourage all of our customers and friends to continue to make progress toward Dick's goals.

**PortionPac Chemical Corporation
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