



Remembering Sebastian A. Ruma

Those who have worked with Sebastian A. Ruma, knew him as “Sub.” He hailed from Nebraska and made his home in Lakewood, Colorado. A loving husband, father and grandfather to his family, Sub was also a mechanical engineer and was a well-known and respected colleague to the design community in Colorado and Wyoming.

Sub began his engineering career at Marshall & Johnson. During that time, he met another engineer in the small, tight-knit community by the name of Clint Cator. Though both Sub and Clint both left Marshall & Johnson as their careers progressed, they kept in touch. Their relationship developed into a friendship, and in 1963, Sub left Swanson Rink and joined Clint to form Cator, Ruma & Associates, Co. Sub and Clint presided over the mechanical consulting firm for decades.

In 1971, Sub and Clint were integral in working with other consulting engineering firms to create the Certified Consulting Engineers of Colorado, a division of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado. This group strived to improve the integrity of local engineering firms.

The projects that Cator, Ruma & Associates designed encompassed many types of facilities including institutional, healthcare, higher education, and K - 12, among others. Sub was particularly involved with the telecommunication industry. He provided leadership for hundreds of projects in this sector over the years, from the Baby Bell System in the '60s through AT&T's fiber expansion years in the 2000s.

Telecommunications was not the only industry to receive long-lasting benefit from Sub's engineering talent. While working with the physicians and the facility director at National Jewish Health, Sub and the firm started working on a concept that would integrate infection control into engineered systems. This approach was later patented and became instrumental in the fight against tuberculosis. It was known as the Ultraviolet Germicidal Apparatus and Method.

Sub's leadership and expertise helped guide Cator, Ruma & Associates to become a leader in the local engineering community. The company grew to include electrical engineering in 1982, and included a branch office in Laramie, Wyoming by the name of Cator, Ruma, Rosier. Sub helped operate this division for five years. In 1990, Sub became the President of Cator, Ruma & Associates. Sub served as President until December of 2000, and was actively involved with the leadership of Cator, Ruma until his retirement in 2005.

Sub's contributions to the consulting engineering community cannot be overstated. In his years as one of the leaders of Cator, Ruma & Associates, he mentored and helped develop many engineers who were fundamental in forming the foundation of the many engineering firms which populate the Front Range today. Sub's approach toward business always made use of the ideas and methods which would yield the highest probability for success. His ability to recognize a successful business approach was uncanny.

After a year of declining health, Sub Ruma passed away on Friday, August 24, 2012. He will be fondly remembered by his many friends and colleagues, and we are grateful for his long-lasting contributions to our community.

Information about the funeral mass and charitable contributions in Sub's memory is shown below.

Funeral Mass

Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
1985 Miller Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
303.233.6236

Charitable Contributions

Salesian Missions, 2 Lefevre Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10801-5710 or
UNICEF, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038