



Rene Gaanderse

July 16, 1943 - February 10, 2016

Dear friends of Rene Gaanderse,

It is with deep sadness that we advise the passing of our friend and colleague, Rene Gaanderse, who passed away in his sleep earlier this week.

Rene was a larger than life character, who lived life to its fullest, and loved his family, his friends, and he especially loved shipping.

Rene was born in the Netherlands in July 1943, obviously a tough start during the occupation. At a young age he started with a ship agency in Rotterdam, and through his ambition, drive and intelligence, seeking loftier goals, he started with HCI/Andino Shipping, soon transferring to HCI Houston, and before he even got a chance to buy cowboy boots he landed in HCI Colombia, where he was instrumental in growing HCI's storage, distribution and shipping interests. In Colombia in addition to his business accomplishments, he grew his family, gained the honorary 'Don' before his name, and learned 'Besame Mucho' line by line, in Spanish and English.

Don Rene the shipping entrepreneur established, along with his original partner Hans Jans (since deceased) 'Panamerican Tankers' (Parcel Tanker Services) in the late '70's, first in Manhattan (where I first met him in 1981) then in Stamford CT. Panam/PTS is the grand daddy of the now Nordic Tankers, via several evolutions (Copenhagen Tankers, Clipper Wonsild, Clipper Tankers, etc).

After selling his interest in Panam/PTS and 'retiring' in the early 2000's, he realized shipping was too big a part of his life and Rene started his association with SPI Marine (then SoundTanker) in early 2004 in CT, joining us in Houston in 2010. In addition to doing business with Rene from the early 80's, driving together 8 hours in my rental car from Fairfax VA to CT on Sept, 11, 2001 when the skies closed following the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks, I have had the pleasure and honor of working with Rene

for the past 12 years and being his friend.

He will be sorely missed by his SPI family, and by all that knew him.

A Memorial Service Celebrating Rene's life will be held Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 10:30 AM in the Chapel at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079.

Events

FEB **Celebration Of Life Service** 10:30AM

18

Dettling Funeral Home

14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX, US, 77079

FEB **Reception** 11:00AM

18

Dettling Funeral Home

14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX, US, 77079

Comments



“ I was trying to find some information on Rene, thinking of him due to my years in the Marine Industry. Very sad to see that he has past... he was a GREAT PERSON. My wife and I remember fond times with Rene and Josie. With fond remembrance Troy and Jane Humphries.

Troy R. Humphries - August 02, 2019 at 07:24 PM



“ Please feel free to contact me at 520.419.7466- this is his Son, Ramon. Thanks for your kind remarks.

Ramon - September 10, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ I googled Rene Gaanderse yesterday and much to my dismay, this obituary appeared high on the list of search results. What even disturbed me more was the fact that Rene had been living the last couple of years in Houston, the city where I have lived since 1995.

Rene and I go back to the same high school in Rotterdam we both attended, Mathenesser HBS starting for me in 1956, Rene same or possibly a year earlier. I sat next to him for a year and a half. We both lived also on the same street, Mathenesserdijk, although a mile apart, I did not know Rene outside school. Rene transferred to another high school in early 1958 I think and that was the last time I saw him in life.

My career was in the ship repair business, starting with Rotterdam Dockyard Company, and that led me to Curacao Drydock in the Netherlands Antilles and after that North Florida Shipyards in Jacksonville, FL. There, around 1987-88 we had a chemical tanker in drydock, the Panam Querida. The work did not go smoothly and I regularly visited the ship for some discussion. During one of those conversations with the Korean Captain, it came out that I was Dutch. Our president is Dutch, the captain told me. The way he pronounced the name was of no help but he ran to his desk to get the company telephone list. There it was at the top: R. Gaanderse. I've only known one Gaanderse in my life and his name started with an R. Is his name Rene? I asked. He did not know he said, for him it was Mr. Gaanderse. Was he the same age? A tricky question that he politely declined to answer. Let's call him I said. No, he did not want to call the president because of some vague guy in the shipyard claiming that he might know him.

No problem, captain, give me that number and I will call him later. Which I did of course and talked first to his wife. Clearly a Dutch lady, we switched to Dutch and she confirmed my questions, it was Rene Gaanderse from the Mathenesserdijk. Rene called me back later and we spoke several times during this repair.

In 1989 I made a career change and started to work as a surveyor for the Marine

Underwriters in London. This brought a transfer to New Orleans and later to Houston. In either city I did speak with Rene once more, but over the last 15 years we did not have any contact.

A few years back I was contacted by a lady, Bea S. who also was in our class and who was trying to trace all students. She told me that one of her girl friends in that same class, Elly D. had married an American guy and had moved to Midland, TX. Well, that made three I told her, out of a class of 20 pupils. The girl friend in Midland did not want to be bothered by ex-students and that was fine with me, but a few weeks ago Bea told me that she had lost contact with Elly and if I possibly knew anything. Of course I didn't, I didn't know her married name, address, phone, anything but I promised to google.

Googling her maiden name has to date not resulted in anything. I figured, with Rene being in the chemical tanker business, he would occasionally be in Houston and maybe we could organize a little reunion for the three of us. So I better try to trace Rene as well and that was why I googled his name the other day.....

I'll try to attach a school photo of late 1957 with everybody on it. The three circled faces are Rene, far left, me in the foreground and Elly D. in the middle. Bea S. is the young lady standing in the back row, extreme right.

My sincere condolences to the family.
Robert (Rob) Hoppel



Robert Hoppel - November 27, 2016 at 10:24 PM



“ Hello,

I don't know where to start other than to say I am so sorry to hear of Rene's passing. I will introduce myself to those reading this that do not know me but my name is Chuck April and I am Rene's former brother-in-law from his marriage to Wendy. My wife is Wendy's sister, Dawn.

My memories of Rene are that he was a kind and generous man who was always someone who would listen before speaking which is the key to conversation. I always felt that Rene was truly concerned and interested in others lives. While Rene was married to Wendy we spent several weekends and especially holidays like Christmas, 4th of July, and Thanksgiving together with he and Wendy visiting us in New Hampshire often. I will always cherish and remember those visits. Whenever Rene would come up to NH in good weather, he and I (and usually my friend Dennis) would sneak away for a round of Golf and that's when the laughter and kidding

around would really start. Rene could be 'one of the guys' and just let go for a few hours. We would make absurd bets with each other and then forget who won what and laugh it all off as a having a good time. When we would get back to the 'girls', as Rene used to say, we would of course always be in trouble for having a little too much to drink or we forgot what time we were supposed to be back or some other thing but with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face he would make an excuse and somehow everything would be OK.

Rene was very kind to my wife Dawn and would always remember her birthday. Even while he lived in Houston he would email me a long message every year around her birthday wishing her a Happy Birthday while updating me on his bachelor lifestyle. He loved watching football. He didn't know too much about Hockey but he knew that I loved the Bruins. Every time he wrote to me he would mention that he had kept up with the Bruins and watched any game he could get down in Houston because it reminded him of me and Dawn and Thanksgiving. We have a tradition every year of going to the Bruins game the Friday after Thanksgiving and the game is always against the New York Rangers. Rene went with us several times and always loved it.

Rene is someone whom I wished I had spent more time with. He was always willing to help offer advice and guidance on my career and work. I love my sister-in-law and I was truly sorry that things didn't work out for her and Rene but I loved Rene also and I respected the man that he was and how far he had come in life and the obstacles that he climbed along the way. There was no quit in the man. It was a full life that unfortunately ended too soon. Rene will be missed and I am sure his family and especially his son are grieving the loss of his life Rest assured there are others that are very saddened by his passing and that he will be remembered fondly for his friendship and his fatherly presence.

Abrazo Rene.

Chuck

Chuck April - March 06, 2016 at 09:18 AM



“ Thank you, Chuck - Ramon Gaanderse

Ramon Gaanderse - May 17, 2016 at 01:44 PM



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dettling Funeral Home - February 18, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Rene Gaanderse.



February 18, 2016 at 01:31 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rene Gaanderse.



February 17, 2016 at 02:04 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rene Gaanderse.



February 16, 2016 at 09:03 PM