

From BBO Forum .....

Wednesday, November 07, 2007 7:07 PM

Subject: **SAD NEWS - Paul Soloway passes on**

A friend of mine forwarded this email to me the night after Paul Soloway died.

It is an email letter from his wife. I in turn left in only the identity of the original senders to those who passed it on to many others and, because I don't like showing addresses to people from different groups in my directory who don't know each other, I sent it to one of my alternate email addresses and blind copied a bunch of bridge players. For posting it here I am just giving the letter itself which did not include an email address for sympathy notes.

You may already be aware of this, but the letter is very touching and very real. and so I take part in sharing this news, however sad, with my bridge friends.

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Paul passed away last night. I was hoping when I got up this morning, the last 48 days would be just a nightmare. That Paul and I could get back to packing for Shanghai. I mean, it had to be a nightmare didn't it?

Unfortunately no. Paul is really gone.

Yesterday, a CAT scan of his head showed massive irreversible brain damage. It was the result of the two cardiac arrests he sustained on Saturday. The mind of the Paul Soloway we loved and who loved us, was probably gone then. He never felt a thing. Three separate doctors reviewed the films. I also discussed the situation with Paul's cousin, Mark, who is a surgeon. All agreed the situation was hopeless.

I immediately contacted Paul's sister. We put the telephone next to Paul's ear so she could say good bye. (Some doctors believe the patient can hear all the way until the end.)

Paul's absolute favorite nurse, Karen, and I dressed him in his favorite sloppy blue sweats. I had the catheters and tubes removed that he hated but had tolerated for so long. Then I got him a grape popsicle -- his last and favorite fluid source before his swallowing problems developed. I took him into my arms and told him about a new antibiotic that was going to beat the infections. All Paul had to do was relax, go to sleep and let us do our work. When he woke up, all the pain would be gone and he would still have time to recover for the Reissinger.

Paul went very peaceably but not without a fight. His heart kept beating and his blood pressure stayed up for a few minutes more than we expected. He never took another breath when we removed him from the ventilator. He never stressed. I just kept reminding him to relax and that I loved him and he had nothing to worry about because Karen his favorite nurse and I were there. Paul left his mortal pains behind and moved on at 7:28 pm. He looked just like he was sleeping at the bridge table ... with his mouth slightly open and eyes half shut. It was as if he was resting between hands.

I need to see what he specified in his will. Paul definitely opposed a memorial service. I don't think he precluded a "celebration of life."

Paul has requested cremation.

A good friend of ours sent me the following quotation. I have no idea if it is accurate but it certainly fits the situation: "It is important to remember his deeds, for in the future, those who were not privileged to know him will doubt such a man every existed. (Einstein's comments on the death of Gandhi)

I feel so lost right now. Like my best friend is moving on and we aren't going to be best friends any more. My best friend who was so honest and strong, so loyal to his friends, never a gossip, a sportsman at all costs, a fierce competitor, the ultimate team player yet in so many ways an innocent in the world around him.