

IN MEMORY

Rick Dearholt

October 28, 1954 – June 8, 2024

Rick Dearholt directed the federal programs for American DND and was also the corporate health and safety manager. He was a certified Project Management Professional with more than 30 years of hands-on experience in environmental remediation, demolition, and decommissioning. Rick brought a depth of experience and balance to the ADND management team. Rick was also a key member of our business development team, having contributed significantly to the growth of the company.



Rick Dearholt, May 2024,
at the Paducah HPFW
Tower Implosion Project.

The following pages are a tribute to and in honor of John “RICK” Dearholt who touched so many lives in the Industry, and always gave back to the communities in which he lived. R.I.P., dear friend Rick.



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**Rick Dearholt presented with
"FELLOWS" achievement recognition
at WM'24 in Phoenix, AZ.**

EULOGY

by Darrin Lawrence

John Richard Dearholt ("Rick") passed away on June 8, 2024, at the age of 69. Rick was a very dear friend who lived a life of service to his country, his industry, his community, his beloved wife Jen and his family.

Rick served his country in the United States Marine Corps for over 22 years retiring as a Master Sergeant (E8) with numerous citations and medals including a US Navy Achievement Medal, a US Navy Commendation Medal, and multiple small arms expert awards. He was extremely proud to be called a Marine and received full military honors at his Celebration of Life, June 21, 2024. Semper Fi Rick!

Rick served our industry as a leader, mentor and distinguished colleague for over 30 years. Rick served on numerous boards, such as President (and founding member of) the Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA), and serving in an advisory capacity to many more. Recently, during the 2024 Waste Management Conference, Rick was awarded as a Waste Management Fellow. The award is given to recognize volunteers for distinguished contributions to the advancement of radioactive waste and radioactive material management.

Rick served his community; he had an unsurpassed passion for helping children in need. He served as a member of the Board and ultimately Chairman of the Boys and Girls clubs in Oak Ridge and Roane Counties. While serving in that capacity I witnessed Rick provide financial assistance to numerous families and above and beyond dedication of his time and efforts to assisting the members of our community. He was also



a member American Legion Post 615 and donated his time to many other causes.

Rick served his family; he was described to me by several members as the "Glue that bound our family together." Over 75 members of his family were in attendance for his Celebration of Life, coming from across the United States and some foreign countries. To know Rick was to know that nothing was more important than his family. He was the organizer of family functions, vacations and get togethers, the family counselor, the one person every family member turned to in a crisis, and he enjoyed every minute he could spend with family. Rick had no greater love in his life than his beautiful wife Jen, she was his whole world. As he described his happiest moments in life to me, they all had one thing in common, Jen. Thank you for sharing your beloved Rick with us!

I was given several great privileges by the Dearholt family, one of which was to deliver Rick's eulogy at the Celebration of Life. Over 175 people attended, and we did what Rick would do, we celebrated, told stories, and laughed. Rick always celebrated and lived life to the fullest and wanted us to do the same. The greatest privilege was given to me by Rick himself the day he honored me with the best title I ever held in my life, "Brother." Rest in Peace Brother!



**Rick Dearholt (Nov 2022) receiving the
"Achievement Award for Sportsmanship."**

IN MEMORY Rick Dearholt

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2012 – Present

RIX LLC, Independent Business Consultant

2017 – Present

American DND, Inc., Director of Federal Programs and Health & Safety

2010 – 2012

Sullivan International Group, VP of Business Development

2007 – 2009

CDM, Client Service Manager, Lead Nuclear Safety Manager

2004 – 2006

Washington Safety Management Solutions, Sr. Project Manager

2000 – 2004

Bechtel Jacobs Co., LLC, Project Manager, Deputy Manager of ORNL Projects

1998 – 2000

Bechtel Jacobs Co., LLC, ES&H Manager @ Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

1992 – 1998

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., ES&H Manager



Rick Dearholt: Love of Family, Love of Country, Love of Industry.

Memberships & Organizations

EFCOG; D&D Facilities Engineering Group

ETEBA; Founding Member, Board of Directors and Past President

Waste Management Symposium; 'Fellow' and numerous committees and presentations chair

Community Involvement & Recommended Donations

Boys & Girls Club of Clinch Valley, TN (Past Chairman) (www.bgcor.org)

St. Jude Children's Research (www.StJude.org)

American Legion Post 615

“REMEMBERING RICK

Rick was my mentor with DOE and quickly became one of my closest friends. His generosity and kindness were unparalleled and I will deeply miss him.

—Lee Gliddon, Executive Vice President, Knowledge Relay

“The man, the myth, the legend”.....Rick will always be the best mentor, friend, and big brother to me.

—Lauren Amos, Vice President, Catawba Corporations, Past ETEBA Board of Directors President

Rick was truly unique person. His experience, drive and intelligence made him confident in the face of any challenge but never arrogant. You knew if he said he would do something, it would be done well. In spite of his commitment to work, Rick always demonstrated what was most important to him: family and friends. I loved his huge smile, firm handshake, and great stories. He made a huge impact on me and my wife.

—Jim Fiore, Retired

I am VERY saddened by the passing of Rick Dearholt. I worked with him when I was part of the contracting community at Oak Ridge; as a new kid to the DOE contracting world, Rick was wonderful at reaching out to me and helping me become part of the community. I will be forever grateful for this. And NOBODY taught me more about having fun while performing important work. No one could forget his big, fun personality; the world is a lesser place for his not being part of it.

—Patrick Flood, PE, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Environment, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

ETEBA members and staff were sad to hear of the news of Mr. Dearholt's passing. So many of our members have shared wonderful stories about his commitment to both the industry and its people. Mr. Dearholt was an amazing supporter and champion of ETEBA and served as President in 2013 after many years on the board. I wish we all had been given the gift of more time to learn from him and experience that unwavering commitment he shared.

—Elizabeth Harm, Executive Director, ETEBA

Live. Laugh. Love. Rick Dearholt did all three of these to their fullest measure while somehow also excelling as a nuclear and environmental cleanup project manager and business development executive. Rick never lost sight of the big picture and demonstrated the perfect work-life balance for those of us who needed the occasional reminder. I'm not sure any who knew him could have imagined or dared to imagine a world without him, and we are left stunned in the silence left by his passing. We owe it to him to both celebrate and pass along his amazing life force. Semper Fi, Rick.

—Dave Carlson, Retired AVP, Strategic Business Development, HII Technical Solutions, Past ETEBA Board of Directors President

I worked with Rick on a small but technically challenging project as a subtier to Bechtel Jacobs. Throughout, Rick successfully balanced the needs of a fair but demanding client, as well as our own management, project staff, and subcontractors. I think the best tribute I can give Rick, a proud Marine, is that he always embodied the Marine Corps commitment of "Semper Fidelis," always faithful, to his family, his clients, and his co-workers. Rick was full of life and he will be missed.

—Mike Jochman, Retired

Even now, words are still hard to find about the impact that Rick has made on so many in our industry. I am grateful that I got to know him, meeting him first nearly 2 decades ago when I started getting involved with organizations in East Tennessee. We would often catch up at conferences, enjoying a cigar and a scotch (or maybe a good red wine). Over the years, we worked together and competed against each other, but always remained friends. Rick was a large soul, and always wanted to make people smile. You will be missed my friend!

—Kirste Webb, CF APMP Fellow, Chief Strategy Officer, Heal Group, LLC, Past ETEBA Board of Directors President

I first met Rick Dearholt in the summer of 2002, I had moved down to start working with Bechtel Jacobs to help set up their Facility Management Program. We became close during the Tower Shield Reactor D&D, Rick supplied the funding, and we assembled a team of all stars to get the reactor defueled and the fuel sent to Savannah River. Rick told me "Johnnie if you get this done for me you will always have a job." Sure enough, after the project was completed, Rick brought me down to work with him on the S&M Project. When Rick left for greener pastures, he recommended that I take his place. I have been eternally grateful to him since for that recommendation.

—John Ettien, Director of Operations and Technical Services, TFE, Inc.

The following quote was shared at his celebration, thanks to one of the individuals who knew Rick:

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a Ride!"

—Hunter S. Thompson, *The Proud Highway: Saga of a Desperate Southern Gentleman, 1955-1967*



Rick Dearholt (Mentor) to 'Captain Demo' aka: Blake Schaab with Anna Schawver at WM'24 in Phoenix.

