

Introspection

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March 2021

Like many New Mexico surveyors, in the recent past I have paused to reflect on various issues. My perspective is not unique, and I am not naïve enough to believe everyone shares my concerns. On the other hand, we are a community having common interests deserving space in our newsletter.

Dr. Steve M. Frank died on Thursday, January 21, 2021. He was 69 years old. As one of the most dedicated surveying educators I've ever known, Dr. Frank touched the lives of many students, colleagues, and professional all over the world. I was privileged to work with him for the 12 years I taught surveying at NMSU. We didn't always see eye to eye, but I believe we each grew from our, at times, spirited discussions. And there were issues on which we never agreed – for example, Dr. Frank remarked one time, "Earl will never be a true surveyor, he doesn't have a pickup truck." The context made the comment appropriate.

I will always be indebted to Dr. Frank for the opportunity to teach surveying at NMSU. I arrived in Las Cruces just after classes started in August 1998 and Dr. Frank graciously invited me to live with that fall semester because I left wife and daughter back in Ohio. He willingly shared living accommodations as well as philosophy on surveying, academia, and life in general. We enjoyed many evenings just sitting and chatting about many issues.

Dr. Frank was big on "Ethics." He had collaborated with Dr. Knud Hermansen at the University of Maine and developed an Ethic on-line course for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering Surveying (NCEES) that received wide acclaim and was used by many state boards. Dr. Frank was also devoted to surveying education and pushed hard for NMSU students to become involved in student organizations on campus, statewide, and at the national level.