

## **Bruce Wolf Eulogy**

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Last Tuesday I, along with many others, received a very touching communication from Bruce, updating us on his status and plans for the immediate future. It was so moving that it prompted me to call him immediately on his cell phone. I chuckled a few minutes later when he apologized for having missed my call because he and Mary had been gathering eggs. What followed was a very warm, emotional, and heartfelt conversation.

I am honored to join you today on behalf of NAR in the celebration of the life of a most remarkable human being. Bruce Wolf was a gentleman of unquestionable integrity and honor. Above all he cared; for his spiritual well being, his family, his nation, his profession.

On a more personal note, I can honestly say that I have never heard Bruce say an unkind word about anyone! If anything, he was often the first one to redirect the expressions of someone like myself expressing self doubt, to positive thoughts of self-worth and can-do confidence. As you can imagine, such an attitude made it very difficult to hold a “pity-party” with Bruce. So, most of learned that if we really wanted to ‘wallow’, just don’t invite him.

I would like to close my remarks with a poem that is related to the real estate industry that we both served, but more importantly, sums up for me and many who knew him, the wonderful quality of this man’s character.

### **The Builder**

**I saw them tearing a building down  
A team of men in my own home town  
With a ‘Heave’ and a ‘Ho’ and a ‘Yes, Yes!’ yell,  
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.**

**And I said to the foreman, “Are these men as skilled...”  
“...as the ones you’d use if you had to build?”  
And he laughed and said, “Oh no, indeed,  
the most common labor is all I need...”  
for I can easily wreck in a day or two,  
what skilled craftsmen have taken years to do!”**

**So I thought to myself as I went on my way...  
Which one of these roles am I willing to play?  
Am I one who is tearing down...  
as I carelessly make my way around?  
Or am I one who builds up others with care,  
in order to make the world a little better... because I was there?**

In Bruce's final written communication to most of us, he comforted and assured us with the statement: "So, I have followed my heart and packed my parachute...). I take from that the words echoed in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy:

(2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, 4: 7, 8)

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the  
Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only, but also  
to all who have loved His appearing.**

**On behalf of the National Association of REALTORS®, thank you** Bruce for having been there, for your service, for your leadership, and to Mary, for being the wonderful beacon alongside him, who took us into your family and caused our smiles to beam ever brighter as you accompanied him as often as you could, and for having shared him with us.