

I had the pleasure of knowing Don for nearly 20 years. We were both active in VOR, a national advocacy organization for people with intellectual disabilities. I was a VOR employee and although it was absolutely a labor of love, it was volunteers like Don who I counted on to ensure our advocacy made a difference.

And, Don was one of the best.

As a long time State Coordinator, active Committee member, regular participant in our annual trek to Washington, D.C., recipient of VOR's 2015 Advocacy Award, and a state-level leader, he committed thousands of *volunteer* hours over the years. In my files alone, there are nearly 600 documents that Don wrote or contributed to in some way.

Don had that unique blend of tenacity and charm. His written and verbal arguments were warm, articulate, thorough, and compelling.

Don's was a life well lived. In doing what he loved, he mentored those of us who had the privilege of working with him and learning from him. He was an inspirational leader; many, including me, are better advocates and people for having known him. Through his advocacy and activism, he also made life immeasurably better for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Kentucky and around the country.

Don leaves behind an incredible legacy. He will be greatly missed.

~Tamie Hopp