

REMEMBERING CRAIG L. TUCKER

AUGUST 31, 1969 – JULY 20, 2018

"I was raised to believe that God has a plan for everyone...and that seemingly random twists of fate are all a part of His plan." – Ronald Reagan said that, and Craig Tucker understood it. In fact, Craig kept that quote from President Reagan on a slip of paper in his desk.

Craig Tucker was a top policy and political strategist and for the last four years served as vice president for policy & public affairs at Life Sciences Pennsylvania, where he led the trade association's public policy team on behalf of the life sciences companies that call Pennsylvania home.

Craig understood the ultimate beneficiaries of his work were the patients around the world waiting for treatments and cures to come out of Pennsylvania...from the companies he represented in public policy circles.

In his four years at LSPA, Craig grew and strengthened the association's relationships in Washington, D.C., in the Pennsylvania State Capitol and in the Pennsylvania governor's office – both with Governor Corbett's team and later with Governor Wolf's. Craig enhanced our organization's close ties with dozens of patient- and disease-oriented support groups, and he directed LSPA's international initiatives, leading to partnerships in Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Lithuania and Portugal.

Craig was a caring, thoughtful and bright intellect with a love of art, history and literature...and had a tremendous sense of humor. He was the self-proclaimed Southeastern PA "Sherpa" for the team at LSPA, always keeping his colleagues up to date with developments at Longwood Gardens, the art scene in West Chester, the Chester County Historical Society and the real cultural icons of our region, such as the Green Dragon Farmer's Market and his favorite sports team, the West Chester Suburban Brawl Roller Derby Team.

Many will miss Craig's clarity of language and love of history – he had a William Safire-like command of a great vocabulary – and enjoyed educating others about the past...although he never seemed to accept the fact that John Dickinson, of his alma mater's fame, walked out on the Continental Congress in 1776, having refused to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Craig was an influential, substantive, caring, warm and generous soul...and a quiet agent of positive change. In these days of political rancor – don't misunderstand, he was a staunch Republican partisan – what was most important was how Craig accomplished what he did. He had a unique way of developing strong relationships with elected officials, their staffs and LSPA member companies. His use of handwritten cards, notes and other "Random Acts of Craig" made a personal connection, built significant bridges and made all the difference in conversations with virtually everyone with whom he worked.

In terms of political acumen, Craig understood like few others the interplay between politicians at all levels of government, and the nuances of politics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One of the things his work colleagues enjoyed most, aside from his humor in meetings, was sitting in his office and simply talking about Pennsylvania politics. It almost always evolved (or devolved) from a work-related political update to wind up in some corrupt corner of the Commonwealth's sordid political history. Given Pennsylvania's unusual and somewhat incestuous political makeup, understanding it in the unique way that Craig did was invaluable to his advocacy work in Harrisburg, Chester County, and in D.C.

Craig's goal for LSPA, along with NORD – the National Organization for Rare Disorders – was to pass legislation in Harrisburg that would create a Rare Disease Advisory Council. For those less familiar with the state government process...there are so many competing interests in Harrisburg, it takes a dogged determination – like Craig possessed – to accomplish anything in such a large and complex state policy environment. The legislation passed.

Craig's work and effort to do just that were articulated by his long-time friend Marie Connelly:

"Working closely with Rep. Marcy Toepel, the Rare Disease Caucus was officially formed in 2016. On July 7, 2017, Craig Tucker was standing behind Governor Tom Wolf when the governor signed into law Act 14 which created the PA Rare Disease Advisory Council. (We had to



Craig Lincoln Tucker

force Craig to be in the picture – he was always in the background making sure all details were worked out and never sought any attention or recognition for his hard work.)

Because of Craig's grit, resilience and leadership, there is a group of committed volunteers who are focused on improving the quality of life for all those affected by rare diseases in Pennsylvania and to be a national leader in transforming the lives of those affected by rare diseases through collaboration, support, education and advocacy."

The Pennsylvania Rare Disease Caucus is one of only four in the United States.

Craig kept things in perspective. He took his mission of helping others very seriously – most recently of helping patients with rare diseases. But he never took himself too seriously.

Craig began his Advocacy Update in a recent LSPA staff meeting with the quote below:

"And the Lord said to John – come forth and you will receive eternal life. But John came fifth...and won a toaster."

Craig transformed the way the trade association works with those in greatest need – lobbyists and political hacks in need of guidance and decorum...and more important, patients and their caregivers in search of solutions to unmet medical needs.

A final quote...this one from Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address: "Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on God, who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still able to correct, in the best way, all our present difficulty." – Found on another slip of paper in Craig Tucker's desk.