

A Tribute to One Tried and True



David and Teri Uhler

We all have known people who are devoted and committed in ways hard to forget. Such a person was our friend David M. Uhler, II. How do you say good-bye to someone whose devotion to family and friends, justice and fairness was a bedrock certainty that you could rely on?

Dave was a champion for Dred and Harriet Scott. His drive came from understanding the importance of their impact and he was sure to make that known to anyone who would listen. Long before I knew him well, he was a friend to my father and always the gentleman in every situation. Dave served faithfully as a vice president on the board of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation.

Dave was an attorney in Belleville, Il and worked in the employ of the government for 25 years, in the service and at the National Parks Service for 20 of those years. It was in this capacity that I met him. Four years before commemorating the Scotts, Dave was anxiously asking me when we could start planning for the 150th. I was impressed by his excitement as though Christmas

was coming next week. Time and space won't allow me to speak of all the supportive things he did, but to cite a few.....

Aside from the obvious things you would expect, he would request and secure any memorabilia he could, such as securing for us the dated and one time use banners that hung on the courthouse which would be discarded otherwise, writing scripts for exhibits at the Old Courthouse for our 2011 anniversary program, sharing his skills by working on a program curriculum with us on short notice, working diligently on every aspect of Harriet's Hill at Greenwood Cemetery, doing pro-bono for Greenwood Cemetery and for so many other people (his family was shocked to find out how many) and coming to practically every meeting in St. Louis even if only for 30 minutes when he had to get back to teach his classes in Belleville, always running something over to me at Bryan Cave on his lunch and leaving it at the desk, to be sure we had whatever we needed. No task was too small or too menial for this Wash U law school grad, JAG and loving husband, father, grandfather and brother.

Dave was focused and committed. He was sometimes stubborn, (a trait of committed persons) but always gentle. He was a consummate gentleman and defender of the underdog. It was an honor to call him friend. Few people wanted to see the statue of Dred and Harriet more than Dave. He often amazed me at the oration with which he would speak of them. The Monday before he left us, he and his wife got to see the life size statue in the making and we inspected the work that Harry Weber is doing. What a gift from God to let Dave see this days before his homegoing.

I am imagining my father greeting Dave at the pearly gates and after a great reunion, Dad says to him, "Come with me, Dave. I've got someone I want you to meet!"

We will always remember and be grateful for the gift that was Dave Uhler.

Lynne M. Jackson,
President
DSHF



In a gracious gesture, the family of Dave Uhler asked in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, P. O. Box 2009, Florissant, MO 63032 or via Paypal at www.thedredscottfoundation.org