



SOUTHERN TIER BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

P O. Box 4406 Ithaca, New York 14852

A Message from the President:

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of member, friend, and colleague Mike (Buzzy) Andersen. Mike died peacefully at home February 7, 2024. Mike was originally from the Ellenville area of New York State. He was an athlete, avid runner, and canoeist.

We remember Mike as a retired Captain of the Cortland Fire Department where he spent the majority of his career. When the Uniform code was first promulgated in 1984 the City of Cortland, unlike most, took unique action and charged the Fire Department with administering the Code. Mike was one of the original proponents and took a lead role in the Code Enforcement program. Mike had successes and made a positive impact in Cortland and as he gained experience, and he would guide other Firefighters in the use and enforcement of the code.

During his time off from City Fire, he worked as an inspector for Life Safety consultants and other Municipalities in the region in Code Enforcement, so, most weeks he saw very little time off. And during all of this he always found time for maintenance training. He would frequently say, if I'm available I'm going to be there and learn. Mike would normally achieve in excess of 40 hours annually. It was during this time Mike was assaulted while working for a local Town in Cortland County. More recently with Mike in mind we have been successful in gaining support of a NYS Assembly bill representing an amendment of the NYS penal law to make it a class D felony for an assault of a Code Enforcement Officer. We call it the Buzzy Bill (A06265).

When Mike retired from the Fire Department in 2009, he was quickly scooped up by the Village of Groton where he spent over a decade perfecting his craft. As he engaged with the public in code enforcement, they quickly learned that Buzzy was a no-nonsense kind of guy. He would frequently speak about experiences with enforcement, commenting about the support he had from Government, but most importantly the local Court Justice.

As a long-time member of the Southern Tier Building Officials Association we would frequently see Mike at meetings and training conferences. More locally he participated with other Code officials in Cortland and Tompkins County. Mike was quick to ask the hard question or share important information that actually made a difference.

Condolences to Mike's immediate and professional family. We will certainly miss Mike.

Mikes obituary and calling hours can be seen at the following link:

<https://www.riccardifuneralhome.com/obituaries/Michael-Andersen-5/#!/Obituary>

William Knickerbocker

Southern Tier Building Officials Association