



*Marty Van De Car and chef Rob Sargent worked together at the Taste of Harbor Springs seven times.*

## **Jenny Brower's thoughts about Marty Van De Car** ***Presented at the Harbor Stars Awards Dinner on October 4th, 2022***

Back in 1979, I was a senior at PHS when Marty was a freshman ... and while I knew of him, we didn't really hang out and I actually got to know his Aunt Rosie first, when she and I played together in a pool league up at Victories when it was still a bowling alley owned by Jack Zaremski and had 4 big pool tables.

I'm grateful tonight that both Rosie and Marty's sister Annette as well as many of his friends and business associates – and the Old Broads Dinner Group are here to celebrate this honor for Marty of renaming the Community Ambassador Award for him. It is certainly well deserved.

In June of 2016, Marty was honored by the United Way as their Volunteer of the Month. He served 3 years as a member of their board and worked on many of their programs and projects. For their reporting of that award, the Petoskey News Review quoted him saying this about volunteering:

“We need to create awareness to make change happen. Volunteering gives you a really good feeling, it can make life easier for some people and helps you find out issues that are going on in your community ... There are many ways that someone can help out – even an hour of your time is valuable and can make a difference.”

Think about what he said there ... “we need to create awareness” - Marty did that all the time!

Marty was an “influencer” long before it became a thing. “Creating Awareness” should probably have been his middle name.

He was always “spreading the word” – introducing new people to other locals – pitching new businesses that opened to the locals – and that is why this naming of the Ambassador Award in his honor is so fitting. He actually was the unofficial Ambassador of Northwest Michigan – he just didn’t have the title yet.

I tried to see how many friends Marty had on Facebook – but he had that privacy setting where I could only see that we had several hundred in common ... but to give you an idea of his online presence, when the Odawa posted his passing on their Facebook page – that post had 97 shares ... NINETY SEVEN ... and all over Facebook my feed had countless friends in common writing beautiful sentiments of how he touched their lives and would be missed. Kendal Stanley wrote a lovely tribute in the paper ... “missing Marty already” – [if you missed it, click here](#) – it’s a short read but spot on.

I do want to thank the Chamber for recognizing him with this honor – especially because Marty was a very humble person who downplayed his contributions and would have never expected this in a million years. When I texted Bonnie last month that I felt he had no idea of his impact – she texted back saying, “It’s part of why people loved him – so unassuming” – and she is absolutely right.

He was a quiet force – and always put the spotlight on others – promoting others as only he could – often with a wink and a smile. His posts on Facebook were humorous and often inspiring – they were uplifting when you needed a boost. He made you want to be a better person ... to do good things.

He was just hitting his stride in my opinion – at the peak of his career – and really enjoying life. We should all be so lucky to have a friend like him.

Let’s raise a glass for a toast! “Marty Van De Car – you are missed and may your spirit live on in this award.”