



In Celebration of Ira Lapidès ...

His vision, leadership, commitment and inspiration for the past 27 years will long be remembered

Happy Retirement!



Long before RPI first opened its doors back in 1972, Ira was already contributing to its success. When he was quite young, Ira, Robbie, his sister, and Larry, his brother, “volunteered” to work for RPI by folding and stuffing some of the original RPI product flyers. Putting on the stamps was also their job at a pay rate of one cent per envelope. Ira’s “bosses” at the time were his parents, Sherry and Al Lapidès, owners and founders of RPI.



In May 1995, Sherry and Al started to implement their RPI succession plan, and to assure their customers that RPI would continue as the quality company they had come to trust, Ira was asked to join RPI as Vice President (on the promise that he would not have to lick stamps anymore). With earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees respectively from the University of California at Berkeley, and UCLA, in addition to his successful career in the healthcare industry, Ira was the perfect choice.



The year 1999 was an exciting time because on May 1 of that year, Sherry and Al handed over the "baton" to Ira, and they went into retirement. Ira became RPI's new President and Chief Executive Officer.

From that point on, it was Ira’s vision, commitment and inspiration that led RPI to even greater heights; moving it to the next level of success for the company, its suppliers, and most of all, its customers.



It was under Ira's leadership that RPI pursued ISO 9001 certification status for the company, significantly increased the number of new models of equipment that RPI offers parts to fit, began a new trend with developing one-of-kind parts and value added kits, and was the first company in the healthcare parts industry to launch a website.

Ira’s contributions to the healthcare industry are recognized world-wide. Through his innovative methods, he made significant contributions to the growth and success of the replacement parts industry for medical and dental equipment, as well as to the industry as a whole. From the numerous articles he authored for Medical Dealer and other trade publications to the talks he hosted on behalf of SIA, MERA and AAMI throughout the years, Ira made a positive and lasting impact on the industry. His commitment to quality and customers never wavered; it always remained a driving force within his vision for the company. What’s more, he was an inspiration to his employees in so many different ways from encouraging them to “think out of the box” to promoting from within the company.



Ira had great pleasure serving and supporting our industry. He enjoyed working directly with our trade associations, biomedical engineers, and independent service organizations because the exchange of ideas always centered on the betterment of servicing healthcare equipment with the customer as our focus. He always said that quality parts and excellent customer service is what we do best.