



In Celebration of Phil and his 39 Years of Service! Happy Retirement!

This year we celebrate Phil Goldstein's 39th anniversary with RPI, and at the same time, we wish him well as he leaves RPI and enters the wonderful world of retirement. Phil has been planning his retirement for quite some time. First on his "to do" list is spending lots of time with his family, especially his son, Nathan, and grand-daughter, Grey. As he said, "After 39 years of developing parts, I now just want to read, paint and concentrate on my hobbies like making stained glass windows."

The first outside employee that RPI had ever hired was Phil. It was 1981, and his job was to put RPI product development into high gear; to ensure that the company would have continuous additions of new parts to meet its customers' needs. How Phil was hired is its own story as Al Lapidés, one of RPI's founders, told us in an RPI newsletter back in 2007: "When we finally decided we were going to make RPI a "real business", we knew that developing new products had to be our priority. Until then I had been doing product development in my spare time. There now had to be more focus. Although product development was primary, we had to hire someone who could do everything – from product development to technical support. We advertised and asked some of our local customers for help. Then one day we spent some time with one of our local customers, Al Goldstein of MediDent. He told us that it appeared that we needed someone who was a learner and a doer. That we needed someone with the attitude and motivation like his son Phil. And sure enough, Phil's dad was right. Phil learned about the biomed equipment we were working on very quickly. He then started learning about other equipment our customers talked to us about, and he led us into producing parts for them. He continued to learn by taking classes, talking to our customers on the phone and working with them at their businesses. Phil has not slowed down since ... in fact, he may never slow down."

According to Sherry Lapidés, another of RPI's founders, "Phil never did slow down over the years. He just kept going, and going. He founded the RPI OEM library and drawing files, two things we still use at RPI. We also credit Phil for being our first Tech Support lifeline for our customers. We have Phil to thank for numerous contributions to RPI. He is a fine, honest man with integrity, and it has been my pleasure having known him and worked with him at RPI. In fact, when Phil first started at RPI, we shared a small office, about 10' x15' in size. Our desks faced each other so we got to know each other pretty fast with lots of laughter and shop talk."

Among the many great successes that Phil has brought to RPI's customers is the Snap Action Diaphragm (RPI Part #AMD078). As Phil said, "This part was tough because it required a lot of engineering trial and error since we had to make sure that there was a special flex to the metal. That was the biggest challenge." Another part that Phil spent more than two years perfecting, with many days (and nights) of testing, and re-testing was the Metering Valve that fits the Chemiclave®. It was this part that kept thousands of these machines up and running for medical and dental offices over the years.

And perhaps Phil's crowning achievement was his vital role in RPI being awarded its first ever patent by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on our catalytic converter for a hydrogen peroxide sterilizers that converts H₂O₂ into a gas, which once the sterilization cycle is complete, needs to be vented out of the machine. Venting H₂O₂ gas is obviously quite hazardous, so it goes through the catalytic converter and is changed into H₂O and oxygen. Congratulations on a job well done Phil!

Phil's career here at RPI can best be summed up by Ira Lapidés, President and CEO of RPI. "Phil has helped to make this company what it is today, the leader in replacements parts for hospital, medical, dental, and laboratory equipment. He has always stayed true to his "never-give-up" attitude, and to developing quality parts. You can be proud of the legacy you leave behind, and confident that we you will always be a special part of the RPI family. It has been a pleasure working with you and a great run. We thank you Phil, and wish you well."