

IN MEMORIAM



ART LIFSON

1945-2010

*"He was always there whenever needed,
A friend most true were words he heeded."*

The Ripon Society lost a leader and a friend on July 7, 2010, with the passing of the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Art Lifson.

"For over a decade, Art contributed his energy and considerable talents to our organization," stated Jim Conzelman, the President and CEO of The Ripon Society. "The leadership he provided and the wisdom he shared during that time were invaluable, and helped make The Ripon Society one of the leading voices for centrist Republican thought in Washington.

"Just as important as his energy and talents were the principles of honesty and integrity that he imparted. In that regard, it's been said that every organization takes on the character of its leader. If that is the case, then The Ripon Society gained more than it gave having had Art as a guiding force and leader.

"Theodore Roosevelt once said that, 'There is always a tendency to believe that a hundred small men can furnish leadership equal to that of one big man. This is not so.' In that, he was right. The Ripon Society has relied on a lot of 'small men' over the years. But the success of our organization today is attributable in no small measure to the efforts of one 'big man' – and that is Art Lifson. We will miss him."

Art leaves behind his beloved wife of 43 years, Amy, as well as his daughters, Heidi and Beth, and his son-in-law, Michael. He also leaves behind a wealth of friends and colleagues who came to know, respect, and love him through the years.

One of these friends, Carol Kelly, wrote a moving tribute to Art that she read at his memorial service. It is a fitting remembrance to our late friend and leader, and is reprinted below.

THE GREATEST GIFT:

A Friend Most True

*I was new to private life, having just escaped government strife.
When Arthur came to my office door, to share his knowledge and so much more.
We were colleagues in Equitable days, when lobbying the Hill was a positive craze.
He took me under his wing and showed, all the "stuff" I needed to know.
Often he was a serious type, and the suits and shirts came with pin stripes.
At times he'd say "I'm such a stuffed shirt," but always he was on top of his work!
A couple years in he asked me to dine, with Amy his wife at his Chinese find.
She called him "Artie" with eyes of love, and I knew his hand had found the right glove.
We partnered in an alliance against, the Clinton health care reform angst!
Willing to accept some real reforms, but not go as far as Clinton norms.
The insurance industry I left behind, and worked for providers and more government time.
But always we would find time together, whether skies were fair or other weather.
I'll remember fondly in mind's eye, nights at Wolf Trap in seats so fine.
Movies and dinners in Georgetown, too, where the action was, we were the crew.
Through all the years and all the fun, of friend Arthur, I will remember one...
He was always there whenever needed, a friend most true were words he heeded.*

Love always,
Carol Kelly
July 7, 2010

For those wishing to honor Art, the family requests that donations be made to the American Jewish Society for Service, 10309 Westlake Blvd., Suite 193, Bethesda, MD 20817, or the Mandel School of Applied and Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, 11235 Bellflower Rd., Cleveland, OH 44106.