

## *Our Tribute to Red,*

Before starting at Ehrgotts, Roland "Red" Hiles graduated from Tech High School. He served four years in the Air Force during the Viet Nam era. Much of that time was spent in South Korea. After his honorable discharge he started



working for Ehrgotts on March 13, 1972. . His loyal dedication and expertise was the foundation for Ehrgott Rubber Stamp Company.

Red's sense of humor is beyond none. He was always at work making that perfect stamp for anyone that called whether it was single return address stamps or a100 multiline stamps. The customer had to be pleased. When a large order arrived, he was like a kid in a candy store. He'd get all exited, gather the material together and stay and stay until it was

completed. Sleeping on the couch in the back room was no stranger to "Big Red". Our customers loved Red because he always delivered the product that he promised when he promised and usually sooner. Red insisted on using only the best "Red Rubber", because it lasts. We tried photo polymer, but it just wasn't there. "Has to be Red Rubber" he'd say. Well, he was right, 30 years later Red's rubber stamps are still around. His customers would and still do come in just show him how long their stamp has lasted and to see the red head with his baseball cap and cigar. To hear about the big fish story or the latest bowling or golf score and of course his favorite Cincinnati "REDS"

Do not forget his star play as catcher on the Company softball team. The 1981 City Champions in Indy Parks League. Those were the good ole days he'd say and he was so right! His many years of pleasing the customers and using only the best quality materials has made us the #1 Rubber stamp company in Indiana and for this we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

On July 27, 2002 Red was preparing for his usual Saturday morning ritual of meeting his dad, having breakfast & hitting all the good yard sales of But this would not be any usual Saturday morning, Red wasn't feeling like himself. He felt weak and started feeling numbness in his arms. He knew something was wrong. His dad rushed him to the VA Hospital, within 20 minutes Red was paralyzed from the neck down. Within an hour they placed him on a respirator not knowing what happened. First they thought it was a stroke, then Guillian-Barre Syndrome. After weeks they finally diagnosed him with Transverse Myelitis, a debilitating disease that attacks the nervous system and causes paralysis. Red was transferred to a VA Hospital outside of Chicago where they

were familiar with the disease. He was put through a very grueling physical therapy routine to maintain his muscle strength. He has regained some use of his arms, but is confined to a wheel chair. But Red, the trooper he is has not given up.

He is now at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette making everyone's day with his great sense of humor and encouragement. He has been an inspiration to many patients and staff.

We miss our "Ole' Buddy" so much but know he has a new calling and we sadly relinquish our rights to him, for he is doing a far more important job now for the patients in Lafayette.

I know Red doesn't want any pity, he's one of the strongest men I know, and never giving up is Red. Please pray for our friend to give him the strength and peace he needs and someday he will return to the "Ole Red". **BELIEVE IN MIRACLES ! "CMON"**.

God Bless Red and his family, for they are always in our hearts and prayers.

I know he would like to hear from you, if you would like to contact Red his email address

is: [www.redmochine@verizon.net](mailto:www.redmochine@verizon.net)

His address is: Mr. Red Hiles

Indiana Veterans Home

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