

GIAN TURCI
1950 – 2009

Gian Turci. A man, a giant among men. A husband, a father, an international translator in eleven languages, a scholar, an author, a web master, a capable media interviewer or interviewee, he was witty, charming, personable and a friend to the world. He was my dear friend, my confidant, my mentor for six short years.

Gian and I started talking around 2003 when my local smoking ban was enacted. I was like a sponge, I would at times drain him wanting more information. I wanted to learn what had happened so I could understand how to fight it – he was more than willing and eager to fill my eager need to learn. We spoke daily for several years, sometimes for a few minutes a day, sometimes for an entire day 6 – 8 hours at a time talking and working together – thank God and its' inventor for Skype!

Gian taught me on the international level because he worked on the international level, from the US, from Canada and from Italy – no matter where he lived, he fought prohibition. He worked with people from all walks of life and built the network we still have today. The network of people working to fight prohibition from all over the world are a testimonial to his undieing efforts.

Gian's legacy to us is immeasurable only because it can only be measured by what we do with what he has given us. One of Gian's greatest unrealized goals was to see all of us work together without turf wars or bickering. He seen we have a common goal and an international problem and he realized that unless we work together we would not have the political clout to win. He could see the political structure we were up against and believed we must duplicate it to defeat it within its own realm. He also realized prohibition is not a local issue and that we must form Coalitions and work together in order to defeat those who work against us and all humanity. We still hold that goal as attainable and The International Coalition Against Prohibition, TICAP was Gian's last endeavor to achieve that goal. I am truly honored to have been invited to speak here today, and to honor my Best Friend's legacy.

Maryetta Ables