



25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS



Eric Renz and Blaine Pearman filled many slots volunteering at the Democrat's Booth at the 2014 Puyallup Fair Booth.

Longtime 25th LDD member, volunteer extraordinaire and all round kind, interesting and intelligent Eric Renz has passed away. An impaired driver hit Renz on November 24 while he was riding his bicycle near the Puyallup Fairgrounds. We have lost a warm, caring, gracious man. Eric Renz passed away 15 days after being struck by a car while riding his bike.

Eric lived the values of the Democratic Party better than anyone I know. Eric liked to refer people to the Preamble of the Washington State Democratic Party Platform, the first two sentences of which read: "As Democrats we place the well-being of the people as our highest priority. We believe in the values of community, empathy, equality, tolerance, opportunity, and the common good of the interdependent world we share." This describes Eric Renz well, a person with more humanity than anyone I have ever known.

Peace brother Eric,

Ed Herde, Chair 25th Democratic Chair

See Page 4 for important information regarding January 9 dinner at the Puyallup Elks .

Friend's Message

Ed Herde

I first meet Eric Renz sometime in 2009 when I started attending 25th LD Democrats General Membership meetings with my son Eric. Right away I liked this guy whose input always focused on what was best for all the people. Eric's motives were clear. There are a lot of people in the 25th LD Democrats who are pure in their motives, but with Eric Renz this was immediately evident. It didn't hurt that almost everything he said I was in agreement with.

At the 2010 convention in Vancouver we had some good conversations and I was looking forward to getting to know Eric better. Unfortunately Eric had some health issues come up and he was unable to be involved with our group for a while. In late 2011 I was asked to be the 25th LD Democrats chair. I had not been around the organization that long, I didn't know the history of the group, and I didn't know much about running the meetings. The regulars at the 25th LD meetings and the E-board members are a kind group of people and were patient while I figured out how to lead this organization. Eric Renz had healed and returned to take part in the group on a regular basis. At the general membership meetings our secretary Eric Renz was always sitting in the front row with a supportive grin on his face when I did something that had the potential to gum up the works. At the E-board meetings Eric would always sit one or two seats to my left. I thought of him as my left hand man. I will always remember Eric's ability to laugh and shake it off if someone were to disprove his point or have a strong rebuttal to his contribution. Whenever a good line was offered up I would turn to Eric because I wanted to enjoy his genuine smile and laughter.

I was able to get to know Eric much better, as were many other people, during his campaign for the legislature this past year. When things changed quickly 4 days before the candidate filing deadline and we needed to find a candidate Eric's name was suggested by Cliff Allo because Eric was our finest example of our values. When I asked Eric I expected to receive a hesitant response, instead after only a 2 second pause Eric said enthusiastically, that for years he had been talking about these issues and now it was the time to put his words into action. And he did a fine job putting his beliefs out there for all to hear.

Eric's friendship was a gift I will treasure always.

1-15

25th LD Democrats Reorganizational Meeting
Puyallup Library
December 1, 2014

Call to order at 7:13 by Jerry Beckendorf (temporary chair)
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Cliff Allo
Reading of the rules. M/S/A (David Henry/Eric Herde) Accept rules.
Roll Call – 13 PCOs present out of 24 possible. Need 8 to carry vote.

Nominations for Chair

Ed Herde nominated by Cliff Allo - Elected by acclamation.

Vice Chair nominations

Karen Edwards nominated by Eric Herde (accepted nomination by phone) - Elected by acclamation.

State Committee Man

David Henry nomination by Cliff Allo - Elected by acclamation.

State Committee Woman

Ellen Zulaf nominated by Bryan Yambe - Elected by acclamation.

PCDCC Reps

Eric Herde nominated by David Henry - Elected by acclamation.

Laura Groves nominated by Bryan Yambe - Elected by acclamation.

Merv Swanson nominated by Cliff Allo - Elected by acclamation.

General Membership meeting is called to order 7:28 pm.

Cliff Allo appointed parliamentarian by Ed Herde.

Treasurer

Luanne Green nominated by Bryan Yambe - Elected by acclamation.

Secretary

Al Rose nominated by Eric Herde – declined.

Mark Sitala nominated by Eric Herde – declined.

Mark Goodwin nominated by Eric Herde – declined.

Bill Havens nominated by Eric Herde – declined.

No secretary elected.

Membership

Blain Pearman nominated by Eric Herde -Elected by acclamation.

Sgt. at Arms

Bryan Yambe nominated by David Henry -Elected by acclamation.

Appointments

Cliff Allo appointed as Webster by Ed Herde.

Joan Cronk appointed as Focus Editor by Ed Herde.

No Assistant Treasurer yet.

Elected officials:

Bryan Yambe (Fife City Council) filled us in on what's going on in Fife.

Dawn Morrell addressed us about the campaign loss and what needs to happen in the future.

Candidates for Pierce County Democrats offices spoke:

Eric Herde (running for State Committee Man)

Deborah Hartman (running for State Committee Woman)

Beverly Bowen Bennett (running for State Committee Woman)

Anita Latch (running for State Committee Woman)

Linda Isenson (running of Pierce County Chair)

Eric Herde did a presentation on the 2014 25th LD election overview. Our GOTV letter appeared to be successful to those targeted.

Good of the Order

Deborah Hartman - Invited the 25th to the Disability Caucus Holiday party at Tim's Kitchen. \$30 per

She also reminded us that the WSD's holiday party is Sunday at 5pm. \$50 per person.

Eric Herde - Explained the west coast port slowdown. Using the Work to Rule safety strategy.

Management is only hiring miniscule crews.

\$15 Now in Tacoma – 25th can't vote but will benefit.

David Henry – We will probably see Right to Work legislation next year.

Jerry Beckendorf – Letter to the Editor re: national immigration reform and health care.

Bowling Tournament made around \$13,000 for scholarships.

Adjourn at 9:18

Annual January dinner to be
held at the Puyallup Elks
On January 9

Our next meeting will be our annual January Dinner Fundraiser on Friday January 9th. The January dinner replaces the regular monthly meeting. Our speaker for the meeting will be Pierce County Councilman Rick Talbert. The dinner may also serve as a time of healing for friends of Eric Renz who want to be around other friends of Eric.

Details for the January Dinner:

Place - Puyallup Elks Club at 314 27th Street NE, Puyallup

Time - Friday January 9th. Doors open at 6:00pm for social hour. Dinner at 7:00 followed by the program.

Tickets - \$20.00 per person in advance. \$25.00 per person at the door.

Tickets can be purchased by mailing payment to 25th LD Democrats, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373 or buy going to 25dems.org and clicking on the "Donate Now" tab to make a credit card payment donation of \$20.00 per ticket. There is no specific selection for dinner tickets on the website, but if a donation in an increment of \$20 is made our treasurer Luanne will know it is a dinner ticket purchase.

Hope to see you at the dinner.

Ed Herde

25th LD Democrats Chair

The following is Jim Hightower's posting for Christmas Day. It is fitting to run in this Focus edition having just lost Eric Renz. Hightower ends with a version of one of Eric's favorite sayings: "Everyone's better off when everyone's better off."

DADDY'S PHILOSOPHY

Thursday, December 25, 2014 | Posted by Jim Hightower

<http://jimhightower.com>

This special day got me to thinking about America's spirit of giving, and I don't mean this overdone business of Christmas gifts. I mean our true spirit of giving -- giving of ourselves.

Yes, we are a country of rugged individualists, yet there's also a deep, community-minded streak in each of us. We're a people who believe in the notion that we're all in this together, that we can make our individual lives better by contributing to the common good.

The establishment media pays little attention to grassroots generosity, focusing instead on the occasional showy donation by what it calls "philanthropists" -- big tycoons who give a little piece of their billions to some university or museum in exchange for getting a building named after them. But in my mind, the real philanthropists are the millions of you ordinary folks who have precious little money to give, but consistently give of themselves, and do it without demanding that their name be engraved on a granite wall.

My own Daddy, rest his soul, was a fine example of this. With half a dozen other guys in Denison, Texas, he started the Little League baseball program volunteering to build the park, sponsor and coach the teams, run the squawking P.A. system, etc. etc. Even after I graduated from Little League, Daddy stayed working at it, because his involvement was not merely for his kids . . . but for all. He felt the same way about being taxed to build a public library in town. I don't recall him ever going in that building, much less checking-out a book, but he wanted it to be there for the community and he was happy to pay his part. Not that he was a do-good liberal, for God's sake -- indeed, he called himself a conservative.

My Daddy didn't even know he had a political philosophy, but he did, and it's the best I've ever heard. He would often say to me, "Everybody does better when everybody does better." If only our leaders in Washington and on Wall Street would begin practicing this true American Philosophy.



First Presbyterian Church Rev. Sue Watkins dons the stole that pastor Eric Renz would have worn on Dec. 7 to serve communion. Watkins attended a Moment of Blessing ceremony at the accident site that took the life of our friend Eric Renz near the Fairgrounds.

On December 22 Rev. Chris Morton of Associated Ministries presided over a Moment of Blessing at the site where Eric Renz was hit by an alleged impaired driver on Nov. 24.

The Moment of Blessing is an opportunity for the community to come together to reclaim the site of an accident where a homicide has occurred.

Approximately 50 people attended the Moment of Blessing.

Bamboo poles bearing flags with the names of each homicide victim in Pierce County leaned against the fence as the public had an opportunity to speak and remember this kind and gentle man. One of those flags bore the name of Eric Renz.

Morton said, "I want to stand with both those who created the harm and those who suffered the harm. My hope is for the community to be safer."

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2015!**

**Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
In helping our Democratic party**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ **E MAIL** _____

**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member.
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid in
installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by
credit card on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1/>
(can be paid in installments**

If you want the truth about politics by Frank Blair and Traci Kelly
listen to their radio show Fridays at Noon to 1 pm on KLAY 1180
AM.

And if for some reason or other you miss it, then go to
equaltimeradio.net. Tune in or be tuned out.

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**DEMOCRATS CONTACT
INFO:**

DNC: www.democrats.org
WA State Dem. Party
www.wa-democrats.org

**25th LDD E-BOARD
PIERCE COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVES**

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INFO OR COPIES OF FOCUS
CHECK OUT [www.
25dems.org](http://www.25dems.org)

NEXT MEETING:

**Annual dinner Puyallup Elks
January 9, 2015 with Pierce
County Councilman Rick
Talbert as the guest speaker.
Social hour from 6-7 pm with
dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are
\$20 in advance and \$25 at the
door. See page 4 for more
information.**