

George D. Anderson (1920-2001):

It was an interesting ride from driving the horse-drawn ore train in the family phosphate mine to being listed as, "one of the nation's top 500 movers and shakers" by Industry Week magazine in 1988. Anderson, the grandson of a Scottish immigrant miner, fully expected to enter the family mining business when he returned to his hometown of Deer Lodge, MT. After putting his undergraduate work on hold to be ahead navigator for a fleet of B-17s, flying 32 missions over Germany, he returned to Stanford where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with great distinction. He and his new wife Norma returned to Montana, where George started a phosphate mine while he studied for the CPA exam. Though he was always a miner at heart, he knew the economics were wrong for their mine, and so he sold it and took his first job in public accounting. He and Norma moved their two (soon to be three) small children to Helena, MT to join H.O. Mead CPA in 1949, which he would purchase in 1956 and would later become part of Anderson ZurMuehlen.

George D. Anderson and Carl ZurMuehlen (1920-2003) founded their firm, appropriately enough, at the Montana Club in Helena, Montana while celebrating the end of tax season on April 15, 1957. This historic meeting set the stage as they developed the mission of their firm -- to help their clients and business partners succeed today and tomorrow.

George served as Managing Partner/President of Anderson ZurMuehlen until 1984 and then Chair of the firm's board of directors until his retirement in 1987. George also served as president of the Montana Society of CPAs, Chairman of the Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and was an active member of the business community in Helena and throughout Montana. He served as a director for the Helena Chamber of Commerce, president of Helena Rotary, and chairman of the Helena Airport Board. He also served on the Board of Trustees of St. Peter's Hospital in Helena, MT, as treasurer of the American Indian Institute, and he served as both treasurer and then president of First Lutheran Church.

George led by example, centering on faith, family, the profession, and Anderson ZurMuehlen, the firm he founded and proudly watched grow. George embodied the firm's culture of community involvement and investment. His willingness to give back to both the community and the profession is truly an enduring legacy. Anderson ZurMuehlen is proud to carry on his legacy today, more than sixty years later.

George was a man of strong character and tremendous business and professional acumen. He could make any person feel of value. We all wish we had his ability to recall names and the issues that were

important to each individual he knew. His positive attitude, friendly personality, and great sense of humor made him a favorite in any social situation.

A leader with purpose and determination, George received the ultimate in professional acclaim when he was elected Chairman of the American Institute of CPAs in 1981. He is the only Montana CPA to ever serve in this role. George's impact on the profession was so profound that the award for receiving the highest grade on the CPA examination is called the George D. Anderson Award. Other recognitions bestowed upon George include, but are not limited to:

He was the 3rd recipient of the Montana Society of CPAs Distinguished Service Award in 1966 Service to the Montana Society of CPAs as:

- President, Board of Directors
 - Member, Board of Directors

- Service to the AICPA as:
 - Chairman
 - Member, Board of Directors
 - Liaison Board of Directors for Standards Review
 - Member, Substantial Equivalency Task Force
 - Member, Peer Review Committee
 - Past Member, AICPA Technical Issues Committee
 - Numerous other boards and committees to advance the accounting and business professions

George served as chairman of the AICPA's Special Committee on Standards of Professional Conduct in the 1980s, following his term as AICPA Chairman in 1980–81. The Special Committee's report led to the AICPA membership's endorsement of the Plan to Restructure Professional Standards.

Even President Ronald Reagan recognized George's talents by appointing him to the W.R. Grace Commission, a commission with a goal to cut wasteful spending by the government.

George was the ultimate professional – exhibiting compassion for his clients balanced with integrity in every transaction. George was recognized by small business organizations, including the City of Helena, which named the Chamber of Commerce building in his honor, State and Federal governments, and big business. He was appointed to governmental commissions and elected to the Boards of Directors of publicly-traded and privately-owned companies. He was as comfortable dealing with an

individual rancher's tax issues as he was traveling to South America to perform due diligence in the acquisition of mining companies.

George was blessed with a wonderful life partner in his wife, Norma. George and Norma were married for 55 years before his death. Together they raised three wonderful children, David, Dick, and Debi (Farley), who have each succeeded in business and made a difference in their communities.

In summary, George was the source of many of the values and priorities that thrive at Anderson ZurMuehlen today: honesty, integrity, and ethics in all we do; teamwork in an atmosphere of mutual respect; employing talented, caring and responsible people and giving back to the communities we serve.