

IN MEMORIAM: ANDREW K. SOTO

After several years of staving off cancer while demonstrating great cheer, goodwill, and acceptance despite the challenges it presented, Andrew K. Soto peacefully passed away in the company and comfort of his wife Patricia A. Soto (P.J.) on August 3, 2015.

Before all else, Andrew was a man dedicated to his family, faith, and friends. He is survived by his best friend and spouse, P.J., daughter Jenna, son Jesse, daughter-in-law Hannah, grandchildren Brayden and Cameran plus six siblings. While his friends and colleagues may recall evenings of fine conversation and good food, his children, Jenna and Jesse, happily recall him declaring “Road Rally” and packing up the family to drive out to adventure, sports, or errands.

Andrew began working at the American Gas Association (AGA) in 2007 and for the last two years was AGA Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. In his role at AGA, Andrew advised member companies on a broad range of policy issues involving the regulation of physical and financial natural gas markets, federal energy conservation standards, as well as environmental issues. He advocated on behalf of the natural gas utility industry before the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, other federal agencies and U.S. courts, as well as testifying before Congress on natural gas market issues. He was a strong advocate for the issues he believed in, and a motivator when others were ready to concede an issue.

Prior to joining AGA, Andrew worked with the law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP where he advised clients on regulatory policy developments and compliance in several energy industries including natural gas. Earlier, Andrew was a senior advisor to Chairman Pat Wood, III of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where he advised the chairman on market developments, natural gas and oil pipeline tariffs and rates, pipeline certificates, LNG import facilities, electric tariffs and rates, and hydroelectric licenses. Prior to joining the Chairman’s staff, Andrew represented FERC in complex appellate litigation before the U.S. Courts of Appeals in all areas of Commission regulation. Andrew received a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and a B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College.

Andrew's goodwill and the pleasure he received from the company and intelligent conversation of his professional colleagues at AGA, AGA member companies, and the natural gas industry was recently acknowledged at FERC's April 16, 2015 monthly open meeting during which FERC staff provided a presentation on Order No. 899, the final rule on Coordination of the Scheduling Process of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines and Public Utilities; which, among other things, declined to change the start of the gas day. Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur noted that Andrew "pulled together a collaborative effort on this [to develop a] consensus" and Commissioner Colette Honorable also recognized Andrew's efforts and passion for his work.

Andrew loved life and made everyone he came into contact with appreciate their life a little more. His joy also expressed itself in song through the Cathedral Choral Society of Washington, D.C. where he sang for over twenty seasons. As his illness progressed, the dignity, humility, and fortitude with which he lived his life was magnified as we watched him prepare to leave us. He didn't want to leave life, but he was ready.