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EDITOR'S NOTES

Saying Goodbye To a Leader and a Friend

This month, the national NGV industry said goodbye to an individual who is indisputably the single-most charismatic person in the industry. This month, the growing yet fragmented international NGV industry welcomes that same individual. Clearly, our loss is their gain.

Jeff Seisler, who headed up the national Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition for the past eight years, has moved with his family to Amsterdam to chart a new course for NGVs on an international basis. While we wish Jeff well in his endeavor to accomplish on an international level what he has done for the NGV industry domestically, we know his departure will leave a void in this industry that will be difficult — if not impossible — to fill.

R.P. Publishing owes Jeff a mountain of gratitude. As a fledgling publication in 1992, it was Jeff, and others like him, who helped position this magazine into what many view as the "mouthpiece of the industry." Jeff's high energy and rapid-fire thought processes have made him an icon of the NGV industry. We remember our first meeting with him back in June of 1992 at *Texas' 3rd Annual Alternative Vehicle Fuels Market Fair & Symposium*. We sat on a bus with him, waiting to be shuttled to the convention hall, listening as he talked nonstop about issues facing the industry. Realizing the bus still had not moved, Jeff leaned forward in his seat, looked at the bus driver, and yelled in his inimitable manner, "Quit the schmoozing and get this damn bus moving!"

Lucy Crockett, who has literally been Jeff's right hand over the past five years, summed up Jeff's departure when she said, "His loss is a national loss." Truer words were never spoken, when you look at all that he has done for what was at one time a "non-industry" with a few entrepreneurs and assorted firms looking at how to "get the damn bus moving." Along came Jeff, who had the vision and the wherewithal to do just that ... and a whole lot more.

"If you look at where the industry was seven years ago, there were no OEMs producing engines, there were maybe a handful of mom-and-pop conversion companies, but there was really nobody manufacturing any type of quality equipment," says Annaloyd Thomason, of Thomason & Associates, a Las Vegas, Nev.-based consulting and training firm. "The NGV industry was fragmented at best, and the natural gas industry had pretty much a 'wait and see' attitude. Then Jeff stepped in and everything changed. He had a vision, and against all the odds, he unilaterally led this industry to where it is today.

"It's safe to say that many of these accomplishments are because of Jeff — his vision, his tireless efforts and his energy," she adds. "He's been a critical and welcome part of this industry, and many of us are going to miss him. He's done a phenomenal job pulling together this industry, and he's kept it going even in the toughest of times."

While Jeff can look forward to perhaps the greatest challenge of his life when he strives to accomplish similar things on a global basis, Lucy Crockett says that back home, things are definitely not going to be the same. "Working with Jeff has always meant a great deal of excitement and anticipation. I hate to say it, but things are just not going to be as much fun around here anymore!"

From the staff of NATURAL GAS FUELS and all of your fans, good luck Jeff. We have enjoyed working with you, and now we look forward to watching your progress as you take the natural gas vehicle industry to even greater heights in the international marketplace.

Ellen Pollock



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NATURAL GAS FUELS (ISSN 1067-2494, USPS 009-392) is published monthly for qualified recipients by RP Publishing, Inc., 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-203, Denver, CO 80203-1846. Second class postage is paid at Denver, CO.

Postmaster: Send address changes to NATURAL GAS FUELS 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-203, Denver, CO 80203-1846.