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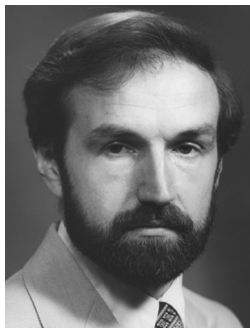
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FROM THE EDITOR

John Alden Reason

1938-2007

Award-winning industry editor
Humanitarian

Most readers have not been affiliated with the electric-power industry long enough to have known of John Reason. He was the type of person the world needs more of: a professional's professional who put the well-being of his fellow man first and foremost on his list of priorities. It is an honor to have worked with him for two decades.

John was born in London, graduated college as an electrical engineer, and began his career with the English Electric Company, a world-class manufacturer at that time. In 1980 he joined the New York City staff of Power magazine and later transferred to Electrical World. There he rose to Editor-in-Chief.

John covered the gamut of transmission and distribution technologies and single-handedly kept his paper afloat at a time when McGraw-Hill had no interest in publishing what once was the company's second most profitable magazine after Business Week. His articles were on-target, timely, and well-written.

There was no finer electrical editor serving the utility industry during the 1980s and 1990s. Proof of his insights and technical and literary prowess was the October 1996 special report "Competition, deregulation: Is the US rushing into the dark?" which earned John a Jesse H Neal Award—considered the Pulitzer Prize for business journalists. He accurately predicted the "mess" created by deregulation of the electric power industry.

As a person, John was caring and compassionate. He devoted a large portion of his non-working hours to helping those in need. His gifted hands helped many a "shut-in." John could fix just about anything that was broken; he was a carpenter, plumber, and electrician all rolled into one. Plus he hauled trash, washed clothes, clipped toenails, cut hair—anything that would help make a person's life easier or brighter.

Working through his church he sponsored several Cambodian and Laotian families from war-torn Southeast Asia. They came here with only the clothes on their backs. John put up entire families in his one-bedroom apartment until he could find them quarters of their own, as well as jobs. He asked for and received donations of clothing, pots, tableware, furniture, etc, to get the refugees started. The "American Dream" was realized by at least one family, which came to own multiple grocery stores and delivery vans within only a few years of arriving here.

John retired a couple of years before McGraw-Hill folded Electrical World. He saw that coming and didn't want to be the last editor of one of the most successful industrial magazines in the nation's history. Instead, he celebrated life by continuing to help the less fortunate and by honing his skills as a sculptor.

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