

## Vinnie and Patsy



As we look forward to the upcoming NRC Conference in Miami, Fla., in January and President Obama's second term/the new Romney Administration (this was written in mid-October and my crystal ball was out of order), we first pause to recognize the tragic loss of two members of the NRC community.

Vinnie Vaccarello (NRC board member, co-president of All Railroad Services Corp.) and Patsy Crisafi (NRC Safety Committee member, executive vice president of Roadway Worker Training, Inc.) were killed in a small plane crash near the Gary, Ind., airport, on Wednesday, October 3.

The plane was a four-seat Cirrus SR-22, which was owned by Patsy through his company Gandy Air LLC. Patsy and Vinnie were the only two people on board and nobody else was injured during the crash. The plane left from Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine, Fla., on October 2, for Smyrna, Tenn., then took off from Smyrna at 9:25 a.m., October 3, en route for Gary, but crashed at 11:20 a.m., about one mile southeast of the Gary airport. The preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board has not yet determined what caused the plane to crash.

Vinnie and Patsy were both leaders in the rail industry and were key contributors to the NRC Board and Safety Committee.

Vinnie co-founded ARS in 2006 and had lead responsibility for securing contracts for the firm, making strategic decisions and driving growth. Since launching in Jacksonville, Fla., the company has expanded to locations in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and has more than 130 employees. Prior to forming ARS, Vinnie served as vice president of operations for Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc., in Jacksonville. Previously, he managed All Vegetation Services, Inc. Before moving to Jacksonville, Vinnie worked in Pittsburgh as corporate auditor and project manager for Westinghouse Electric and as director of the Railroad Services Division for EME & ETS. Vinnie had a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Duquesne University and an MBA from the Davis College of Business at Jacksonville University. Vinnie was 48 years old.

In lieu of flowers, Vinnie's family suggests memorial contributions be made to San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church Building Fund, payable to San Juan Del Rio, mail to 1718 State Road 13 North, Saint Johns, FL 32259, memo line: Building Fund, in memory of Vinnie Vaccarello.

Patsy began his career in the rail industry in 1982 with Chessie System, the forerunner to CSX. Prior to leaving in 2000, he held several positions of increasing responsibility within the engineering department. Among his accomplishments, he worked in the operations center and on various rule committees that developed and implemented both operating and safety rule books and training

programs, which comply with FRA regulations. In 2000, Patsy went to work for Utilco Railroad Services as executive vice president for two years. He left Utilco to co-found three companies: Roadway Worker Training, Railroad Protective Services and Roadway Worker Contracting. Patsy specialized in FRA Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213) and FRA Roadway Worker Protection (49 CFR Part 214) training, as well as various railroad operating rules. Patsy's relentless focus on safety around the railroad likely has prevented dozens of injuries and deaths over the past 30 years. Patsy was 45 years old.

In lieu of flowers, Patsy's family suggests memorial contributions be made to St. Rita's Cemetery Care Fund (payable to St. Rita's Cemetery, mail to 116 South 2nd Street, Connellsville, PA 15425), the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States or the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in memory of Patsy John Crisafi.

Please keep Vinnie's and Patsy's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Vinnie and Patsy would have both been at the upcoming NRC Conference and joint NRC-REMSA Exhibition and they will be missed and remembered there. The conference will be held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Miami, Fla., from Wednesday, January 9, through Saturday, January 12, 2013.

Registration is now available at <https://www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm?> and you can go to [www.nrcma.org/go/conference](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference) for more information.

The conference will include close to 1,000 executives from the rail construction and maintenance industry, including a 100-plus company exhibit hall and speakers outlining capital programs from Class 1 railroads, shortline railroads and major rail transit agencies.

Speakers expected at this year's conference include representatives from CSX, Norfolk Southern, BNSF, Union Pacific, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, Genesee & Wyoming, Watco, Florida East Coast Railway, All Aboard Florida, Chicago Metra, New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Miami Dade Transit and the North Carolina DOT Rail Division.

The exhibit hall is now sold out, but we are still welcoming registrations every day and if your company aims to increase its visibility at the conference, sponsorships are available by contacting the NRC office at 202-715-1247.

To book your hotel room at Loews Hotel Miami Beach, go to [www.nrcma.org/go/hotel](http://www.nrcma.org/go/hotel).

Please contact NRC Operations Manager Ashley Bosch at 202-715-1247 or [abosch@nrcma.org](mailto:abosch@nrcma.org) with questions regarding the NRC Conference or see [www.nrcma.org/go/conference](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference) for more information.

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,  
NRC Chairman



The National Railroad  
Construction & Maintenance  
Association, Inc.  
500 New Jersey Ave., N. W.  
Suite 400  
Washington D. C. 20009

Tel: 202-715-2920  
Fax: 202-318-0867  
[www.nrcma.org](http://www.nrcma.org)  
[info@nrcma.org](mailto:info@nrcma.org)