



IN MEMORIAM

William Henley (Hank) Brokaw

The global avocado industry lost a pioneer with the passing of Hank Brokaw. Hank once used the metaphor of a ten pole to describe the contributions of a fellow avocado pioneer. Hank also was a support that upheld the structure of our industry. He is remembered as being in the company of such giants as Jack Shepherd, known for his innovations in marketing, and George Zentmyer, known for his leadership in research. Hank's remarkable contributions can be found in his accomplishments as a nurseryman and as an industry statesman, fostering the interests of all avocado growers.

Hank had the skills and vision to take the research development of clonal rootstock and transform it into the practical production of root rot resistant trees. His work as a nurseryman was referenced throughout the global avocado industry. Hank was a key team member in organizing the second World Avocado Conference. Their efforts set the standards upon which subsequent conferences were built.

Hank graduated from Harvard in pre-med and proceeded to the University of Chicago for a Master's degree in anthropology. He taught for a while but found his career in agriculture. Where some might have seen these changes as wandering, many saw them as the development of a first rate mind finding its calling. One could sense in Hank's presence what we call character and temperament. Hank combined an outstanding intellect with a sterling temperament. He used these to prosper in the avocado and citrus industries, to foster the welfare of fellow growers, and to nurture a family. I can think of no better legacy.