

August 11, 2017

TO:

The Dave Oliveria's Huckleberries Online Followers and Friends

FROM:

Christie Wood, president and Tony Stewart, secretary
Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the KCTFHR, we wish to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our long-time friend and extraordinarily distinguished and successful journalist Dave Oliveria upon his retirement announcement.

Since 1984, we have been blessed to have Dave cover our many campaigns and projects to counter messages of hate, malicious harassment, hate crimes, acts of bigotry, and cases of discrimination while we worked with others on policy agendas to advance human and civil rights. In his many capacities as a reporter, editorialist and Huckleberries Online Blog Editor for "The Spokesman-Review" over the years, he gave us a voice to speak to and recruit a large constituency to successfully counter hate especially in the arena of the judicial system as well as advancing civil and human rights through legislation, in the field of education and within the public discourse.

During periods of serious challenges to public safety and our way of life, Dave was there as one of our pillars of strength. He traveled as a reporter with some of our members to cover and report to his readers on such events as the awarding of the Raoul Wallenberg Civic Award given to the City of Coeur d'Alene in New York City; the tense gathering in Noxon, Montana; and to cover our attorney Norm Gissel's speech to the inmates at the prison in Walla Walla, Washington.

We were very honored and pleased to present Dave with one of our 2016 "KCTFHR Distinguished Journalism Awards" at our human rights banquet in 2016.

Although we will miss Dave's reporting and sage advice, we wish him many years of happiness and good health in retirement. Dave, God's speed be with you in retirement.