

WORLD FEDERATION OF NATIONAL MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS

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May 14, 2018

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

With a great sadness I am sharing with you the passing a week ago of an active member of the Federation, Dr. Ricardo Losada Márquez.

Ricardo lived through a myriad of experiences and achieved many successes, from a Marine to a Mathematician earning his Doctorate in the United States, to a Professor, Chair, Co-Founder, Rector and President of the Board of Directors of Antonio Nariño University, and to a two-term Senator of Colombia.

Since Maria Falk de Losada has been one of the key leaders of the Federation, Ricardo tactfully supported her without ever overshadowing Maria in the matters of the Federation. In 2000 Peter Taylor invited the three of us for a fairly long visit of Australia, where we had an opportunity to share our passions and become close. Ricardo always addressed serious issues with a touch of wonderful humor and a contagious smile. When in 2010 I was bitten by a 'Medieval' dog, it was Ricardo, who possibly saved my life by insisting that I be taken to a hospital for cleaning and dressing up the wound and getting a number of necessary injections.

I am attaching our 2006 photo taken by Maria in the historic Wren Library of the University of Cambridge, England. Memories of this charming, deep, and progressive Man are forever imprinted in me, and will live in my memory as long as live I.

My deepest condolences to Maria, their multi-talented children with their families.

Cordially,

Sasha

Alexander Soifer

Professor, Ph.D.

President, World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions