

Hello Coaches & Mentors,

*I am sad to report that the FIRST community in Southern California has lost one of its main pillars. Last month, while vacationing on his favorite island, Maui, Steve Stark had a heart attack and passed away.*

*Steve started his involvement in FIRST as a mentor to his son's FRC team beginning in 2004; and in 2008 Steve continued his dedication to the FIRST community by volunteering as organizer and coordinator of FRC Regional Tournaments. Last year, Steve and his wife Cindy decided to start a new chapter in their lives by taking over the operation of the Los Angeles FLL Region and planned to make the transition at the end of the INTO ORBIT season. I was fortunate to have worked with Steve and Cindy at several of our tournaments last season.*

*Steve was a gentle, considerate person and always had the interest of students whether he was a judge, referee, tournament director or volunteer. In all the experiences I have had with him, he truly represented the essence of graciousness, respect, encouragement and willingness to give back to his community.*

*We will miss Steve!*

