**Director’s Message—May, 2019**

**Globalracquetball.com**

***‘Some Things Are Priceless’***

**One of the assets of having a long history in the racquetball industry is that great relationships are developed and nurtured. Special Friendships can last a lifetime; both on and off the court.**

**We recently lost a LIFETIME FRIEND. Francisco Rios was the heart and soul of Racquetball Guam for many years. A true Chamorro, he literally and figuratively fought the tides of the sport in his native city of Dededo. Courts were available and vibrant, then they were not. This see-saw continued for decades. The presence of the US Military and the tourist industry were the sparks that created a court community. With the swish of the waves, courts were destroyed.**

**Frank visited the mainland often, having family in Northern California. Once his children were adults, he befriended and married Glo Ann, a Filipina. He traveled between both island nations. With the assistance of another friend, Luke St. Onge, Frank became active in promoting the game in Asia, and built a strong presence within the IRF. He was the oldest player at the World Championships in Phoenix in 1996. He attended two PASO Coaching Workshops, one in Albuquerque and one in Colorado Springs.**

**Frank’s passion for the game led him to become a certified instructor under IPRO in the early 1990’s. With his insistence and an invitation, I traveled to his homeland in 1995 in order to help promote the game. We visited three indoor facilities, including two US Military bases and one community venue. We gave lectures and clinics to a host of students in schools. We created the largest racquetball court in the world in an elementary school gymnasium. The next day we played on three-wall outdoor courts at the high school. A four hour practical and theoretical session attracted 60 kids. We also held rules clinics and an Instructor Certification Course. Over five packed days we touched almost 2000 individuals. We also allotted time to taste the two national foods, Spam & Tabasco Sauce.**

**A memorable event was Frank’s return home in the summer of 2000. He had just been crowned 50+ Champion with partner Leo Klimaitis, in the inaugural World Senior Doubles in Paris. He agreed to be part of a ticker-tape kind of parade as if he were in New York. We will miss Frank Rios, who would have turned 72 this August.**

**UPCOMING IPRO EVENTS**

**May 31-June 2 Roanoke, VA; Level 1-3 Instructor Certification, Gary Mazaroff**

**August 8-9 Burlingame, CA; Level 1-3 Instructor Certification, Dave George**

**August 10 Lima, Peru; Level 2-3 Officiating Seminar, Gustavo Farell**

**November San Jose, Costa Rica; Level 2-3 Officiating Seminar, Tim Baghurst**

**Quote of the month: ‘The only two things that never stop are *learning* and *cleaning*’ GR**