Sadly it's true Rick.

Al and I are cousins and have been very close.

He was playing golf in June, diagnosed with late stage cancer in July, and died peacefully this afternoon after all treatments failed.

Al grew up in Pittsburgh and began his career at KDKA (then WDTV) as a switchboard operator. He moved into the news department and skyrocketed to the top. He introduced the original Eyewitness News in Philadelphia and took it to WABC in 1968. It was wildly successful.

He became VP of News for the ABC owned stations and eventually moved over to ABC Network News as EP of the Reasoner report. He would refer to talented people as "Giants."

It's a term that he rightfully deserves himself.

Al and I were very close Rick. I'm grateful to you for acknowledging his passing.

Joe