



**Vali Cooper, CEO**

**Vali Cooper & Associate, Inc.**



**September 28, 1956**

**April 17, 2009**

We announce with sorrow that Vali passed away on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, following 3-1/2 years of pain and suffering resulting from an accident she sustained and subsequent spinal cord surgery that left her partially paralyzed. During this time, she continued to oversee Vali Cooper & Associates, Inc. (VC&A) the company she founded and loved.

Vali was a native Californian growing up in Martinez where she gained her passion for the engineering industry through her father's surveying and engineering company. She started her career as a surveyor working in her father's firm, Leptien, Cronin and Cooper, worked for public agencies, then a local consulting firm, and eventually founded VC&A in 1987 as the sole proprietor.

Under Vali's leadership VC&A quickly blossomed over the past 20 years to a firm of 100 employees with seven offices throughout California. VC&A has been listed as the one of the nation's top Construction Management firms by *Engineering News-Record* for the last nine years.

Vali was actively involved with several organizations: California Engineering and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC, now ACEC-CA), Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) and American Public Works Association of America (APWA). Vali served as the first woman President of the APWA Northern California Chapter. She was instrumental working with CELSOC in the passage of Proposition 35, amending the State constitution to provide more flexibility for state and local government to utilize architect and engineering services. WTS named Vali "Employer of the Year" due to her commitment to employees and the fostering of women in the transportation industry.

Vali's vision for her prosperous company led to the establishment of a strong, stable management team that has been leading VC&A in its success over the last decade. Gary Bedey, President, will continue in the role of leading the management team that Vali developed, ensuring that the company remains dedicated to the high-quality service to clients and a company environment fostering a strong family culture.

Later this spring or early summer, an event will be held in the Bay Area by Gary Bedey, Vali's husband, and VC&A to celebrate Vali's life and how she touched so many individuals in her own special way. Individuals wishing to honor Vali's memory may do so with donations to the ACEC-CA or WTS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter scholarship funds.