

## NEWS RELEASE



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### AL BARSА, INDUSTRY ADVOCATE “MR. 400” PASSES AWAY

April 7, 2008 – COMMON North America reports with sadness that the i5/OS community lost an important member this past week when Al Barsa passed away.

“COMMON is deeply saddened with the loss of one of our most recognized speakers and dedicated volunteers. Al was a respected expert, teacher and advocate for the entire community of IBM i users and his voice will very much be missed,” said Randy Dufault, COMMON president.

Al Barsa will be remembered as deeply passionate about COMMON and IBM’s i platform, but most importantly as devoted to his friends and family. Al joined the COMMON community over 22 years ago and worked as a volunteer, speaker and teacher. Al possessed contagious enthusiasm for IBM’s i platform and many were touched by it. Al’s contributed immensely to the community and he will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to work with him.

“Al was a mentor to me, but I am one of the thousands of professionals that he selflessly provided that mentoring to. I can certainly attribute some of my career success to Al’s teaching and his willingness to help,” said Randy Dufault. “COMMON would like to offer Al’s family its sincerest condolences on their loss. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time.”

Many of Al’s friends, colleagues and members of the COMMON community have already expressed their deepest condolences to Al’s family and shared their fond memories of a man who was always willing to lend a hand. Visit [www.mr400.com](http://www.mr400.com), the memorial Web site set up in honor of Al, to share your own memories.

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COMMON is the world’s largest users group of midrange IBM and IBM-compatible technology. The organization comprises more than 4,000 individual and corporate members. They represent more than 22,000 IT professionals involved with the IBM i5/OS, OS/400 and related solutions. For more information about COMMON, visit [www.common.org](http://www.common.org).

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