

**The Fifth Annual James H. Quello Communications Policy
& Law Symposium
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J.W. Marriott Hotel
Washington, DC**

Needless to say, it is a signal honor, even a crowning achievement, for the Quello Telecommunications Center to have someone with the stature and leadership of Senate Chairman and President pro Tempore, Ted Stevens, as our luncheon speaker.

Pardon me while I just exude “Wow!”

For openers, he is the senior Republican in the Senate. He is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee responsible for annually allocating more than a half-trillion dollars in federal funds among various government agencies and programs.

As president pro Tempore, Senator Stevens presides over the Senate in absence of the Vice President. The President pro Tempore is also the third person in the line of succession for the Presidency, following the Vice President and Speaker of the House. The President pro Tempore is also a key member of the party leadership team.

Senator Stevens is also one of Congress’ leading overseers of the national defense as patriotic Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

His other distinguished accomplishments are too numerous to mention – all with a trademark of efficiency, tenacity and integrity.

But most impressive personally to me, and never modestly appearing on his senate resume or releases, is that he is a World War II heroic veteran, a former Flying Tiger. He will be my honored guest at my 100th birthday part at the Army Navy Country Club April 21, 2014 – only about ten years away. We also plan to salute Senator Stevens’ longtime close friend, Senator Dan Inouye (my former confirming Chairman).

Senator Inouye is a World War II purple heart hero of the famous 442nd regimental combat team, the most decorated U.S. Army Unit fighting the Nazis during the Italian campaign. Overall, Chairman Stevens will deserve his long overdue accolades for his World War II Flying Tiger behind the line heroics.

Anyway, my future letters will no longer be addressed the usual Dear Chairman Stevens - -- with his prestigious appearance, today now they will be addressed my *Dearest Chairman Stevens*.

Without further ado, it is an honor to present a legendary Senate leader, a statesman and a wonderful friend, Chairman Ted Stevens.

Now, I must briefly interrupt this program for a special announcement – I have to acknowledge a vitally important, relatively unknown personage in the audience – my doctor, Dr. Michael Trahos, who has the responsibility of making certain that the grains of sand do not run out of the top of my lifetime hour glass for another 10 plus years. Lucky for me, he is doing an exceptional job –except for the occasional heart attacks, I feel as young as ever. Thank you Doctor, and please keep up your great work. On his next birthday, whether or not he swims, I'm giving him a sweater inscribed "Lifesaver" in big letters with a card signed "gratefully, Jim."