

TACK DAWSON NAIL
NAB DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

April 1995

It is a pleasure to greet Tack Dawson Nail, a longstanding friend, the great inquiring rogue reporter and a lovable editor of the Warren Company publications -- Communications Daily and TV Digest.

We have special terms of endearment for each other -- He calls me Jimmy Jack and I call him Dawson and I'm probably the only one around here who calls him that.

Dawson was the very first communications reporter I met in early 1974 when I was a controversial broadcast industry nominee for FCC commissioner. He laughed and told me "No hard feelings, but you don't have a chance." Chairman John Dingell attending the same cocktail reception, told me in front of Tack "Why do you want the damn job? You will be beat up by Congress and overruled by the courts." Later I had to tell my good friend, John, to stop making

it a self-fulfilling prophecy. However, as you may not appreciate when not overruled by the courts, the FCC has considerable regulatory power to confuse and obstruct our regulated industries. In my early FCC days, I was warned to watch out for Nail -- he can read memos on your desk upside down. Actually, I always leveled with him and he became a trusted friend. At interviews he even accused me of talking too much.

Once when I was sounding off on a sensitive subject, he said "Jimmy Jack, why don't you talk it over with your legal assistant and then call me." From that time on, I knew he was a trusted friend and reporter.

Dawson and I have another common bond -- We both served in the famous 45th "Thunderbird" division. He as a forward artillery observer in Korea and I as an infantry officer in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He is a genuine "Okie" -- The 45th is an Oklahoma national guard division -- I am ersatz -- I joined the 45th in France after service with the 9th Infantry Division in Africa and Sicily.

The 45th already an excellent division, received an infusion of paratroop officers in France, and was officially voted the best infantry division in Europe.

In fact, General Patton said the 45th was not only the best infantry division in Europe, but probably the best Infantry Division in the history of American Arms. So, we can both sport our Thunderbird lapel pins with pride.

Anyway, Dawson, congratulations on your well earned NAB distinguished service award. You are a legendary great communications reporter, a good friend and a helluva guy!

So, stay well old friend. The communications industry and all of us need you. The best of luck -- and may the Lord be with you, but not too soon.

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