

For President Gordon Hastings at the  
Broadcast Pioneers Foundation Awards Breakfast  
Las Vegas, NV  
April 12, 2000

Only urgent personal business keeps me from being with all my longtime valued friends of the Broadcast Pioneers and your awards ceremony.

Gordon, please convey my personal congratulations to Ed Cabellero, Bill Clark, Jules Cohen, Erica Forbes and that super communications editor and 25 year personal friend, Dawson "Tac" Nail.

As the most senior commissioner in history, and the most senior broadcaster in the room today ("most senior" is politically correct for oldest you know what), I personally witnessed with respect and admiration the distinguished contributions of these stellar pioneers.

But I particularly regret not being there to extend heartiest congratulations to my fellow "Michigan Upper Peninsula Hillbilly" and my lifelong benefactor, Ward Quaal.

You may have heard it before, but I would never have started, back in 1974, as an FCC Commissioner without the persistent, but friendly intervention of Ward Quaal.

With all the unsubstantiated but venomous charges at that time and a mixed press, I was ready to fold them and accept a friendly industry offer.

Ward insisted that I "stay the course" and that all the unwarranted opposition and surmise could be overcome. Ward had accumulated a huge stack of political chips that he cashed in for me. So, if you liked me as a commissioner-chairman for 23-1/2 years, you have to like Ward Quaal.

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Now it can be told -- in fact every time I came up for reappointment, Ward acted as my ex-officio campaign manager. He cashed in ever chip known to man – (and strictly between us, a few even unknown to man!)

So, Ward, everyone should have a true friend like you, with unconditional devotion once in a lifetime. Everyone is not that lucky.

At age 86, I remember you stating something like I was a physical and mental marvel – I also remember some non-pioneer wise guy stating that I was a living testimonial -- yes a living testimonial that only the good die young! Do you remember my using an army vulgar two word expletive on that young wise guy that translated into “go take carnal knowledge of yourself?”

So, Ward, thanks again, for your years of distinguished public service contributions to the broadcast industry and, most important to me, for launching me on the most intriguing and productive career of my 3 career lifetime.

Love, (very heterosexual) from your grateful lifelong friend.

Jim Quello