

## SALUTE TO THE GREAT LES BIEDERMAN

By: FCC Commissioner-Chairman Jim Quello

THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ME TO SALUTE LES BIEDERMAN IS MUCH TOO SHORT TO DO JUSTICE TO THIS ALL TIME GREAT BROADCAST PIONEER – A BROADCASTER WITH A DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE RECORD AND ALSO THE MOST EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS EXECUTIVE OF HIS TIME.

WTCM, TRANVERSE CITY, WAS FIRST GRANTED A PIONEER RADIO LICENSE BACK IN 1941. AS MANY OF YOU REMEMBER, OTHER MICHIGAN STATIONS WERE ADDED TO FORM THE FAMOUS PAUL BUNYAN NETWORK OF THE 1950S AND 60S.

IN 1950, LES AND HIS PARTNER BECAME TV PIONEERS WITH A TV STATION IN TRAVERSE CITY AND LATER A SATELLITE IN CHEYBOGGAN. HOWEVER, LES' PRINCIPAL INTERESTS AND IDENTITY REMAINED IN RADIO WITH HIS PAUL BUNYAN NETWORK.

LES WOULD BE PROUD TODAY TO SEE HIS PIONEER BROADCAST EFFORTS EXPAND AND GROW IN STATURE UNDER THE MOST CAPABLE, DEDICATED DIRECTION OF HIS SON ROSS, ANOTHER GREAT MICHIGAN BROADCASTER.

LES, I KNOW YOU ARE UP THERE SOMEWHERE, SO HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR MAJOR ROLE IN PROMOTING MY FCC CAREER. IT WAS THE MAB RESOLUTION TO THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION IN CONGRESS BY YOU AND CAROL LEE THAT RECEIVED SURPRISING OVERWHELMING APPROVAL AND LAUNCHED MY FCC APPOINTMENT.

1054

AND LES, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR YOUR LEGENDARY  
PIONEERING, YOUR ENERGETIC PERSONALITY, AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED  
CONTRIBUTION TO BROADCASTING AND HUMANITY.

GOD BLESS YOU – AND WE ARE SURE HE HAS.