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**For Immediate Release:**

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**COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO LEAVES FCC  
WITH DIVERSE RECORD OF AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

When senior commissioner James Quello ends his 23½ year FCC career next week, he leaves behind a diverse group of distinctive records.

First, his staff claims he is the most award-winning FCC Commissioner in history with a record of over 40 distinguished service or lifetime achievement awards. A list of awards and official citations is attached.

The wide variety includes the leading distinguished service awards from NAB, NCTA, PCIA, AWRT, FCBA, IRTS, RTNDA, Intelevent, state legislators, Italo-American and national leadership awards, as well as induction into the Radio Hall of Fame and the Broadcasting Cable Hall of Fame and being awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

He ascribes his numerous pre-posthumous awards to the venerability of old age: "When you become venerable you get credit for virtues way beyond actuality and I'm grateful." He is also gratified that his last reappointment campaign slogan of "Delusions of adequacy and 75% of my marbles" had won such widespread acceptance.

At age 83, he is the "most senior" (politically polite for "oldest") commissioner to ever serve. He is the longest serving Democratic FCC Commissioner and served the second longest years of all commissioners, second only to Robert Lee, legendary Republican. He is also the first combat infantry battalion commander (World War II) to serve as an FCC commissioner.

He is the first Italo-American (first generation) to serve as FCC commissioner and also the first broadcasting executive to serve a full term. He is also the first Michigan State University graduate to serve as commissioner.

His initial Senate confirmation hearing of eight days on and off the stand broke the records for all regulatory agencies. His fourth confirmation hearing eighteen years later of 12½ minutes probably broke the record for the shortest of all agencies.

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Commissioner Quello states that his service as interim chairman and commissioner was the most intriguing and important job he ever had.

He cites the amazing developments that happened to the communications in American since April 1974 when he started as a Commissioner. He states:

"Personal computers were just introduced and there was no thought then that they would become a dazzling new communications device. The Internet was unheard of. The cable industry was in its infancy in 1974. Mobile phones were also in their infancy. There were no superstations, no ESPN, no HBO, CNN or Showtime. VCRs had not yet been introduced. Congress had no idea of granting FCC auction authority. And no one ever contemplated a government agency would raise over 20 billion dollars for the U.S. Treasury. Incidentally, auction authority was granted when I was Chairman. The auction process and the spectrum allocation were initiated when I was Acting Chairman and very aptly implemented by then Chief of Staff, Brian Fontes and FCC Wireless Bureau chief, Ralph Haller."

"Computers, mobile phones and auctions have become commonplace today and they have transformed the world of communications in just 23 years. The communication multichannel, multifaceted, interactive capabilities are mind-boggling and deserve a full text treatment by the incoming Commissioners. Other fascinating challenging developments are international communications, open markets and cross-ownership of industries among countries are growing at a rate considered inconceivable 20 years ago."

"The eminently well qualified new Commissioners will appreciate that the FCC influence far exceeds its relatively diminutive size. An agency numbering fewer than 2500 people is responsible for regulating telephone, television, cable, radio, satellite and wireless industries that account for approximately 10 percent of the Gross National Product of the United States."

As a non-lawyer, Commissioner Quello has found solace and practical common sense in frequently quoting a great President, Franklin D. Roosevelt:

***"A common sense resort to usual and practical sources of information takes the place of archaic and technical application of rules of evidence, and an informed and expert tribunal renders its decisions with an eye that looks forward to results rather than backward to precedent and to the leading case. Substantial justice***

remains a higher aim for our civilization than technical legalism."

He recommends to the new Commissioners a recent quote he used in closing his 23rd Anniversary Dinner.

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged; sympathetic to the striving and tolerant of the weak and wrong – sometime in life you will have been all of those – I have."

Commissioner Quello plans to be a lecturer in 1998 at Michigan State University, his and his wife's alma mater.

## **James H. Quello, Commissioner**

FCC Commissioner Jim Quello can derive satisfaction knowing his efforts were appreciated both as a Commissioner and FCC Interim Chairman during his 23 years at the FCC.

With many prestigious 1994-97 awards added to his many previous awards, Quello probably becomes the most "appreciated" Commissioner in FCC history. Quello uses his classic humorous acknowledgement to his benefactors --- "I appreciate this pre-posthumous Award at this time so we can enjoy the occasion together." He also states "With age comes venerability -- being venerable you get credit for virtues you never had."

### **\* \* \* Awards and Honors \* \* \***

Received First Annual Industrial Telecommunications Association *Lifetime Achievement Award*, October 7, 1997.

First recipient of Intelevent *Walter Werner Award* for distinguished contributions to international communications comity, October 1, 1997, Budapest, Hungary.

Voted by AWRT at their annual convention, to receive framed "*Citation of Appreciation*" Award, September 16, 1997.

National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America presented the *Good Scout Award* to Commissioner Quello on September 10, 1997.

International Radio and Television Society Foundation, Inc.'s *Lifetime Achievement Award* presented to Commissioner Quello by Tom Murphy, former Capital Cities/ABC CEO, on May 20, 1997.

*The Ellis Island Medal of Honor*, presented on May 4, 1997.

He was honored at a laudatory dinner attended by about 1200 guests, celebrating his 23rd Anniversary of service at the FCC, awarded a *Distinguish Service* plaque on April 30, 1997.

Ted Turner presented to him the National Cable Television Association's *Distinguished Service Award* "For uncommon devotion to his country in peace and war." March 19, 1997.

The Association of Local Television Stations presented to him its Distinguished Service Award on January 11, 1997.

The John Bayliss Broadcast Foundation Honoree on October 30, 1996 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, recognizing "... many years of dedicated service to broadcasting...."

Commissioner J. Quello, Highlights of Awards and Honors (Continued)

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Induction into The Museum of Broadcast Communications' Radio Hall of Fame at the Chicago Cultural Center on October 27, 1996.

Michigan State University's Alumni Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC "In recognition of his outstanding achievement and meaningful contributions to Michigan State University and the MSU community," presented on September 11, 1996 in Washington, DC.

Inducted into Broadcasting/Cable Hall of Fame, New York City. Other inductees included Paul Harvey, Peter Jennings, Steven Bochco, Sid Caesar, Sumner Redstone and John Rigas. November 6, 1995.

The first *Milestone Award* from the Institute for Communications at Catholic University School of Law for unprecedented support of young talent in communications law." November 2, 1995.

An unprecedented tribute published in the official Congressional Record by Communications Chairman Jack Fields titled "Saluting Jim Quello, 'Dean of the FCC'," and a framed citation, on October 12, 1995.

The first lifetime honorary chairman plaque and gavel from the international Intelevent in Berlin, Germany on September 29, 1995.

*"Friends of Nebraska"* award in the form of a metal plaque in the shape of the state of Nebraska from the Nebraska Association of Broadcasters (only two previous awardees) on August 25, 1995.

Presented an official full page scroll of the California Legislative Assembly Resolution that states, "Whereas he has been characterized as 'Trumanesque' for his forthright down-to-earth approach to government deliberations and Whereas James Quello has succeeded in compiling an impressive record of achievements, a record that has earned him the admiration and respect of those persons who have had the privilege of associating with him; now, therefore be it resolved that James H. Quello be commended on his long and distinguished record of contributions to the Federal Communications Commission and to the telecommunications industry and extended best wishes for continued success in the future." Members Resolution No. 1240, July 5, 1995.

National Cable Television Association's first *Distinguished Public Service Award* was presented at their national convention to Commissioner Quello on May 7, 1995.

The Eugene C. Bowler Foundation's *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented at the annual PCIA dinner April 5, 1995 by former Chairman John Dingell followed by congratulatory remarks from Chairman Jack Fields of the House Communications Subcommittee.

Broadcast Pioneer's *Distinguished Service Award* presented December 2, 1994.



Community Broadcaster Association's *Lifetime Achievement Award*, November 7, 1994.

Commissioner J. Quello, Highlights of **Awards and Honors** (Continued)

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MSTV'S *Jack Harris Founders Award* "in recognition of his tireless and effective leadership spanning 20 years in the FCC..." (October 25, 1994).

Coalition of Italo-American Association's *National Leadership in Communication Award* in New York City "for serving a role model for the entire Italian-American community," September 16, 1994.

Radio and Television News Directors Foundation's *First Amendment Award*, April 1994.

National Association of Broadcasters' highest award, *1994 Distinguished Service Award*, March 1994.

National Association of Broadcasters' *Award of Honor*, "for Protecting the Technical Integrity of Radio and Television Service" (48th Annual Broadcast Engineering Conference, March 21, 1994).

National Religious Broadcasters' *Chairman Award*, February 1, 1994.

Alaska's Broadcasting's prestigious "*President's*" *Award*, January 14, 1994.

Broadcasters of America's *Georgia Broadcasters Award* in deep gratitude for extraordinary service, 1994.

Detroit Adcraft Club's *Club Director's Award* for outstanding career achievement. This award has been bestowed upon only twelve recipients during the Club's 60-year history, 1993.

NABER *Chairman's Award* "for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the mobile communications industry," 1993.

Pennsylvania Association of Broadcaster's *Golden Eagle Ambassador*, 1993.

Distinguished Service plaque from 50 State broadcasting presidents and the National Association of Broadcasters, 1993.

Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting's plaque "presented to Interim Chairman James H. Quello, Conscientious Broadcaster, Forthright and Fair-Minded Regulator, Steadfast Champion of the Public Interest," 1993.

Commissioner J. Quello, Highlights of Awards and Honors (Continued)

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Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) *Distinguished Service* plaque for his interim chairmanship, lauded at a ceremony in Washington by senior, former FCC Chairmen -- Newton Minow, Bill Henry, Dick Wiley, Charles Ferris, Mark Fowler, Dennis Patrick, and Al Sikes, 1993

Michigan Association of Broadcaster's *Lifetime Achievement Award*, 1993 Annual Convention.

Council of UHF Broadcasting *Golden Bow Tie Plaque* "for outspoken advocacy of UHF Improvement with respect and gratitude," 1990.

Wireless Cable Association International's *Golden Eagle Leadership Award*, international convention, 1989.

American Women in Radio and Television's highest award, *Silver Satellite Award*, 1988 at their national convention.

Ohio Educational Television Stations' prestigious "*Obie*" Award given annually for outstanding contributions to educational broadcasting, 1986.

Numerous other state association awards.

In addition to the recent recognition, Commissioner Quello was gratified during his active 11-month interim chairmanship by receiving favorable editorials or articles in the New York Times, Detroit News, Chicago Tribune, Atlantic Journal, National Journal, National Review, Modern Maturity, Electronic Media and Broadcasting & Cable Magazine, and laudatory letters from both President Bush and President Clinton, Chairman John Dingell, Senate Chairman Ted Stevens, Fritz Hollings and Dan Inouye, and Republican leader of the House Communications Committee, Jack Fields.