

Has Been
Office of Chairman James H. Quello

Jim
What a
terrible
forward!
The book
will be
a
smash.
- Dick
Wick

F y 1

June 15

Great statement from Republican
Communications leader Billy Tauzin!

We now have the No 1 Democrat
(John Dingell) and No 1 Republican of
the important House Communications
Committee for the book.

Best,
Jim

Foreword
By Congressman Billy Tauzin

To me, the similarities are striking. James Quello was to the FCC, what James Cagney was to the movies – feisty, dedicated, charismatic and, most of all, unrepentant. They were both leading men in their own ways.

For more than two decades, Jim Quello was a trailblazer when it came to developing sound telecommunications policy for America. I had the distinct privilege of working with him during this time as a young Congressman and later as chairman of the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Every time it came to fighting the huge, entrenched Washington bureaucracy, this was one old, war hero you always wanted on the front line with you. Whether he was taking on Reed Hundt or Howard Stern, no one ever accused Jim Quello of quivering in some political foxhole.

No, for Jim Quello – for all of his life – it was “ride to the sound of the battle.” He never gave up; he never backed down. While I have always admired his leadership, common sense and quick wit, it is his unquestioned integrity which stands out in today’s world. When Jim Quello shook your hand, nothing else needed to be said.

Still, even though he’s retired now from the FCC, I suspect more will be said – a lot more – before the final chapters are written about Jim Quello’s long journey through the minefields of Europe and Washington D.C. This is a story as much about survival as it is about success.

It would have been a perfect role for Jimmy Cagney...

PROFILE OF A BROKAW GENERATION SURVIVOR

Foreword
By Congressman John D. Dingell

Born and raised in the small mining town of Laurium, Michigan at the peak of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Jim Quello survived the Great Depression, a desperate post-college job search, five infantry amphibious landings in World War II, and 23-1/2 embattled but productive years at the FCC that actively generated the greatest advanced communications explosion in history.

We take it for granted that the United States is today the world leader in telecommunications. But well before the digital era, the American consumer had more, better, and cheaper choices in the telecommunications field than any other consumer in the world. We had efficient and universal phone service, free and varied broadcast television viewing choices, and vibrant local radio markets.

Jim Quello's career, in both the private and public sectors, contributed greatly to the American position of leadership.

He entered the military as a 2nd Lt. and left as a highly decorated Lieutenant Colonel. He was a success in the business world before serving as a Federal Communications Commissioner under six presidents: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. He also served as a one-year interim chairman under Clinton. I'm proud to say that I strongly supported his every appointment.

In the process, he survived the longest Senate confirmation hearing in history for a regulatory agency. He spent a record eight days on and off the stand in 1974. Seventeen years later, at his fourth confirmation hearing, he was lauded for his distinguished service by confirming Senator Dan Inouye and blessed with a 12-1/2 minute hearing heralded as the shortest on record.

During his FCC service, he witnessed the intriguing and often contentious behind the scenes interplay between the FCC, Congress, the Administration and the communications industries. As a member of the "greatest" generation, he was

equipped to serve exceedingly well. In his own words, "[t]he FCC press release indicated I was the most honored SOB that ever graduated from the FCC with over 40 lifetime achievements or distinguished service awards, including both that of Broadcasting & Cable magazine and the NAB Radio Hall of Fame. I appreciate my 'pre-poethumous' awards and ascribe them to advanced seniority (socially correct for old age). With age you become venerable and with venerability you are credited with exaggerated virtues you never had, and I'm grateful."

Jim Quello's virtues are rarely exaggerated. He has led a productive and fascinating life, with (the good Lord willing), many more chapters to be written.