

Remarks by Commissioner James H. Quello
on the occasion of
Broadcasting & Cable's 1995 Hall of Fame Dinner
New York, New York - November 6, 1995

Heartfelt thanks for this most prestigious and memorable of what I humorously call by pre-posthumous awards. As a fugitive from the actuarial law of averages, I especially appreciate receiving this distinctive honor while I'm here to enjoy it and enjoy your company.

Recently I have credited my awards with the distinction of my surviving to an advanced age. When you become a very senior "platinum age" citizen, you become venerable -- With venerability, you are credited with virtues you never had -- and I'm grateful!

It is customary at award time to graciously credit everyone who played a role in your life from office boy to board chairman to distant relatives. In my case, I do have to credit the FCC staff, particularly as a non-lawyer, my present and former legal assistants. As I mentioned during a previous award, all I am, ever was or hope to be, I owe to my legal assistants and my loyal staff.

But there is one all important relative who also merits some kind of special recognition -- my wife, Mary. We were married 58 years ago (to each other) -- back in the days when you said "I do rather than I did." The fact that I lasted that long is a rousing testimonial to her sense of humor.

Speaking of my wife, Mary, I have been lucky. In all those years, she never filed a petition to deny license renewal. She admits she entertained murder several times but never divorce because it was against her Irish Catholic upbringing. She has been mainly responsible for my maintaining a becoming sense of self unimportance. She also tells everyone at Washington government receptions she was much happier being a broadcaster's wife than a Commissioner's wife. I had to remind her I was much younger then. She is also very good at letting me have -- her way. Nevertheless, I really believe in marriage. If it weren't for marriage, many men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all. Besides with Mary, there is never a dull moment and we just don't have time to grow old. So I'm happy dear that you are here to share this award with me. (This ought to keep me around for another year or so.)

In a little more serious vein, this award tonight has a special significance because of my longtime close relationship with Sol Taishoff, founder and publisher of Broadcasting Magazine, the Bible of the industry. He was my advisor, sounding board and rabbi Godfather during my first ten years on the FCC when I really needed one. I

know he would be delighted to see Broadcasting and Cable attain its preeminent position of today with Don West and Peggy Conlon.

So thanks again for adding such a meaningful award and memorable event to my lifetime experiences -- I really am especially honored and pleased -- and I like to think that Sol, my former rabbi Godfather, up there somewhere, is pleased too.

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