

## “As Time Goes By - The Spirits of a Great Event” by Dale Carlson

Samuel Taylor Coleridge sagely observed that “often the spirits of great events stride on before the events, and in today already walks tomorrow.” Our Association’s eighty-fifth gathering at the Waldorf in honor of the Federal Judiciary was, by all measures, a great event.

It is eminently fitting that Chief Judge Paul R. Michel was honored at our event for his lifetime of public service. When he took the podium, Judge Michel spoke about the future of our profession, and the changing legislative and judicial landscape. He alluded to the role that our Association can play in helping to mould this landscape from the vantage point of the practical perspective brought to the table by experienced IP practitioners. His presentation was both inspiring and cautionary in tone.

As a recipient of the public service award, Judge Michel followed in the footsteps of one of our earlier award recipients, namely the Federal Circuit’s first chief judge, Howard T. Markey.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend our Association’s CLE weekend gathering at Mohonk Mountain House back in the Fall of 1989 may recall that we enjoyed the presence and the active participation of Judge Markey at that event. Judge Markey reflected good grace and a keen sense of humor upon being presented with a “teddy bear” by our Association’s Past President John Pegram as a token of our Association’s appreciation.



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Doubtless more than one attendee thereafter referred to the judge as “judge teddy bear”.

Judge Markey passed away last year at the ripe old age of 85. Interestingly, it was Judge Michel who paid tribute to Judge Markey at a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery on June 23, 2006. In his tribute, Judge Michel credited Judge Markey as “my leader, my teacher, my friend.” He went on to say that Judge Markey’s teaching was irresistible because he taught by example. In the highest form of tribute, Judge Michel made it clear that Judge Markey was his judicial mentor.

Judge Markey’s entitlement to being buried in Arlington National Cemetery was well-earned. It stemmed from his service in the Army Air Force during World War II, as well as during the Korean conflict. He was one of our country’s first jet test pilots.

Legend has it that in one mission during World War II, Judge Markey’s plane was shot at, and he was hit. Concerned that he was about to lose consciousness, he wrapped his belt around his leg to keep his foot on the brake as the plane landed. After landing, it became clear that the plane had taken two thousand rounds of ammunition, and he was the only one on the plane who was still alive.

Judge Markey also was a hero in his judicial service. That service included a decade on the former Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, followed by almost a decade on the Federal Circuit. He was chief judge of both courts.

Upon retirement from the bench, Judge Markey went on to become dean of his alma mater, John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Were he alive today, Judge Markey would certainly be proud of the considerable accomplishments of his protégé, Judge Michel, not the least of which was the kindness, grace, and good humor that he brought to our Waldorf event.