

Arlington National Cemetery

June 23, 2006

Tribute to Howard T. Markey

by

Chief Judge Paul R. Michel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Dear Markey Family and Friends,

As judge and Chief Judge – he was always both – Howard Markey was a marvel. In short, he did more, more of everything worthy:

he wrote more opinions,
heard more appeals,
delivered more speeches,
published more articles,
taught more law classes,
organized more conferences,
chaired more committees,
sat with more courts,
met with more foreign judges,
initiated more judicial improvements . . .

The list is endless. And he did everything better and faster than anyone in sight. He simply worked harder.

Yet while doing such good, he had such fun. Every task was approached with endless energy and enthusiasm. Fortunately for us who worked with him, his love of work was contagious.

A serious man who had faced the worst of life and war, he laced every occasion with humor. Our first day together was in March 1988 when he swore me in as the newest judge. On putting down the Bible, he bellowed in his gravelly voice, "Welcome to the monastery!"

At oral argument he was famously terse, confronting fluff with questions of one word, my favorite : "So?" But go to him with a problem and his patience and support were boundless.

As Chief, he ruled with decisiveness, but without dissent. Because he was always open, direct and fair, he was trusted.

He so well launched the new Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in 1982 that he made easy the work of successor chiefs, of whom I am the fourth. Over 15 years later, our internal operations still reflect his handiwork. He is my model still.

At his core, Howard was my leader, my teacher, my friend. His teaching was irresistible because it was all by example. He taught us many things – love of country and law, of family and friends, justice and efficiency. But he also loved jokes, and sports and whiskey and laughter. A judge of unquestionable probity, he taught that having high standards and having great fun can go together.

Thank you, Howard.