

BILL MURPHY  
NAA President 1986

Remembrances by Rolf Valtin  
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Bill's name was synonymous with moral courage. He never wore it on his sleeve. He loved the Academy, in part because it stood for service-oriented values in arbitration and in part because he cherished the dinner parties and side trips. He was a marvelous story teller who never bored you because he talked about others, rather than himself, and about funny or otherwise interesting events.

His fireside chat at the Academy's 51<sup>st</sup> annual meeting should be read and reread not only because it tells the story of a gutsy citizen standing up to bullies but also because of the touch of humor, especially ironic humor, and the non-self-serving nature with which the story is told.<sup>1</sup> Similarly worth rereading for its high quality is the piece he wrote for the Chronicle in answering the Scalia speech at our 2006 annual meeting.

Bill was from the start an influential voice in what I would call good Academy causes. One example of it came at the general membership meeting at the 1975 annual meeting. The debate was on the report of the Re-Examination Committee, in part recommending an affirmative-action step by which to do something about the deplorable state of the dearth of females and Blacks in Academy membership. One after another of our females and Blacks rose in opposition, in effect saying that they would be hurt if word got out that the Academy was admitting females and blacks via loosened admittance standards. Bill, as a relatively new member, stood up and explicitly chided our female and Black members on the grounds that people who have made it don't want others to make it. For me, an unforgettable moment had occurred.

Bill ended up as Law Professor at Chapel Hill, and we used to kid each other as to whether three Chapel Hill professors making Academy President (Guthrie, Barrett, and Murphy) was more impressive than four former Swarthmore College students making Academy President (Garrett, Gill, Hill, and Valtin).

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<sup>1</sup> 1998 Proceedings, pp 162-177