Memorial Service for George Bugliarello  
April 27.2011  
Remarks by Paul Michael Pohl*

I’m Mickey Pohl.

I am a lawyer in Pittsburgh.

For about 25 years, it has been my privilege—indeed, my honor—to have served with George on two Boards relating to Lord Corporation—which is a wonderful, privately-owned technology company. Lord has an unusual capital structure through which it has supported various educational institutions, including Polytechnic University.

George and I—along with retired Marine Corps Lt. General Fred McCorkle—were also Trustees of a Trust that indirectly controls Lord Corporation.

What that means is that, for the past two and a half decades, it was my good fortune to have meetings, dinners, lunches, breakfasts, phone calls, and late night discussions with this wonderful man, dozens of times each year.

I suggest now, with some high degree of confidence, that everyone sitting in this room can recall with great fondness his or her own interactions with this extraordinary man.

*What an amazing human being our friend George was.* I will leave it to others, and to what has been written in the days since February 18, to catalogue the great accomplishments of our friend, George.

We could of course talk about:

- His visionary leadership of Polytechnic University
- How he spearheaded the creation of Metrotech

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• His involvement in Sigma Xi and its George Bugliarello Prize
• His creation of the computer language Hydro
• His extraordinary knowledge of history and science
• His great love for the National Academy of Engineering

And, of course, his 50 wonderful years of marriage to Virginia is a model and an inspiration to us all, as was his love for his sons, David and Nick.

But the list is too long; time is too short and, since I am a lawyer and not a scientist, I would undoubtedly botch some aspect of the engineering parlance.

But let me cast your memory’s focus on just one facet of George’s persona that I know you observed: a quality that goes beyond his just being brilliant and accomplished; an attribute that, in my mind, sets George above almost all of the many successful and accomplished people I see in my world-wide law practice and in other activities.

Let me focus with awe and respect on what I will call, and what in my mind I will always treasure—among the many happy memories of George—what I believe was his “defining characteristic:”

George had an unfailing civility of a type we rarely see anymore in this world.

His demeanor in all circumstances, in all settings, in all respects was simply beautiful. It was noble.

I was with George in many meetings, some of which were difficult; a few could even be called contentious. His presence—his countenance—in all settings just exuded integrity, politeness, civility, good humor, kindness, decency and, yes, competence.

Many people have long lists of accomplishments.
But few, very few, have ever done such things and, at the same time, been able to so fill a room with goodness and decency—and that charming Italian smile. I don’t know if this magic came from Trieste; Padua; Minnesota; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Illinois; Pittsburgh; Brooklyn; Port Washington—or all of the above.

But there can be no doubt that George had a rare charisma.

George taught me so much—not just through his articles and the information he could convey in any setting—but by the example he gave in how to deal with others. I will always remember and cherish that.

Virginia, David, Nicholas—thank you for sharing George with me, and with all of us, so often. And, thank you for letting me be part of this magnificent celebration of George’s life—a life well lived.