



Michel M Strack

April 18, 1942 – November 2, 2009

Mike held Life Member #L0084 and Old 320 site #267. He served on the CASI Board of Directors and held the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Chairman. At TICC, Mike could be found manning the concession booth & selling the thousands of caps he ordered annually. He was selected to the Houston Pod Chili Hall of Flame in 2008.

Additionally, Mike was Great Pepper of the High Desert Pod. His Arizona Razorback chili team was indicative of his roots in Arkansas & anyone in the State of Arizona that was an Arkansas native could become a member.

Jim Stateczny writes:

Shortly after joining the CASI Board in 1994, Mike and I became very good friends, and found that we could work together very well. At the time, Mike was serving as CASI Treasurer, which in very short order he conned me into taking the job. He gave me four filing boxes full of records, which represented CASI's entire accounting history. I received these records a few weeks prior to our annual championship. I immediately sorted through and organized all of the records into their proper order. Next, I created a chart of accounts and the associated budget projections. This led to discovering that not only was CASI broke, but the organization was operating in the red, to the tune of around \$15,000.00 a year. Needless to say, with the help of Mike, and a great board of directors, we started making changes in the way we conducted business, which brought us back into the black, and which started a practice which led to a \$60,000.00 surplus, in a matter of a few years.

From the time Mike graduated from the University of Arkansas, he was a military man, conducting himself to the highest level. No matter where he was, his pants were perfectly creased, and his hair was groomed and combed to perfection. He

continued to be a member of the US Army until he passed away in 2009. Needless to say, the way that he conducted himself as a member of CASI, was greatly influenced by his military background. Once he severely lectured a friend of his, who had traveled with him to TICC, and stayed in Mike's motorhome, for incorrectly hanging a roll of toilet paper.

Several days before he passed away, my wife and I traveled to Tucson, Arizona, for one last visit. He had no idea we were coming, but when his wife told him that he would never guess who just came into town, he replied, "I know exactly who you are talking about, and tell him to come see me in the morning so that we can visit". He passed away a few days later.

There is no doubt that I could tell you many stories of the experiences I shared with Mike, but let me just say that the world lost a great individual when he passed, and his influence on all of us will be greatly missed.