



Neil Stillman: An Appreciation

ICA mourns the loss of Dr. Neil J. Stillman, previously the National Representative for the USA and a consummate public servant.

Over 200 friends joined together on January 11, 2005, for a Memorial Service for Dr. Neil J. Stillman, who passed away suddenly from a cerebral aneurysm on January 8th.

Many ICA members will have fond memories of Neil; he made a major contribution to five ICA Conferences and also led a seminal Study Group on the future of the Role of Central IT Control and Co-ordination Agencies within Government which caused a major strategic re-think among many members and helped shape ICA's Strategic Plan for the new century. Anyone who met Neil will recall his devotion to his beloved wife of 39 years, Dr. Rona Stillman, "the star of his life", who attended and participated at every conference with him.

Neil received his bachelor's degree in Physics at City University of New York, Master's Degree in Physics at Yeshiva University and his PhD in Computer Science at Syracuse University. In the USA Neil worked at the Treasury, DOD and GSA and served at the Department of Health & Human Services as its first CIO, where he had a major hand in modernizing IT systems that touch most every American. He served as President of the Federal Government Information Processing Councils (now ACT) from 1994-1999, during which time he led the US delegation to the ICA Conferences.

Neil set the Gold Standard for a public sector CIO; his selfless "servant-leader style" has been emulated by many successful CIOs. He possessed an exceptional depth and breadth of the IT spectrum that few have mastered and was one who gave back to his profession through membership and leadership in the IT environment to further strengthen the government and industry partnership.

Neil retired in 1999 after 34 years of government service. His only post-work plan was to play more tennis—which he did often with Rona, who retired the same year from her job as the Government Accountability Office's chief scientist for computers and telecommunications.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Rona and the Stillman family.