

The American Classical League's Meritus/Merita Awards 2013

These awards are intended to recognize sustained and distinguished service to the Classics profession generally and to ACL in particular. A candidate must have been an ACL member for at least five years and a current or retired teacher of classical languages or classical humanities, broadly defined, at any level K-12 or college/university.

In the case of extraordinary contributions to ACL and the Classics profession, persons who have not been Classics teachers may be considered. Ordinarily, up to four recipients are selected each spring by an awards committee consisting of teachers at the elementary, middle-school, high-school, and university levels. Recipients are recognized and their awards presented by the ACL President at the annual A CL Institute banquet.

We honor a man passionate about teaching, literature, and people. His career took him from New York, to Pennsylvania, to Illinois. His influence went past geographic boundaries; his influence has truly become international.

Experienced in teaching Latin, Greek, and Classical Studies in high schools as well as at the university level, he was aware of the needs of students and teachers at all levels for ideas, techniques and methods, and material. These became his focus for over forty years. His memorial will be the wealth of teachers, friends of the Classics, and books he has left to us all.

Among his favorite writers of antiquity was Cicero, as evidenced by the production of his final project, the publication of a translation of Cicero's *De Senectute*. His son says that this particular work was an important point for his father in the last few years. He identified with the speaker's thoughts about the role of the older person in society. As always, Cicero spoke to this man personally. Anyone who spoke at length with our honoree would recognize this with his frequent quoting of that Roman philosopher-statesman.

During his involvement in Classics of over four decades, this honoree taught, read, wrote, and, most importantly, shared and listened. He listened to the needs of teachers and students. He listened to the problems of teachers whose programs were in danger. He listened to students who struggled and needed new techniques in learning. The result was the beginning of many years of workshops, financial help for teachers and students, publishing, and helping bring the Classics into the digital age. He worked to provide a new type of text, incorporating the most recent ideas of the teaching of reading and language acquisition. He proved that Latin could go beyond Vergil and Cicero, and so we have Dr. Seuss in Latin!. Overall, he was a great promoter of all things classical.

Many have benefited from this scholar-teacher's sponsorship. They have been give the chance to attend gatherings such as the ACL Summer Institutes, to take part in workshops helping them further their education, skills, and teacher licensure. Our honoree's efforts went further with the introduction of on-line "Webinars" about teaching methods, literature and writers, and the use of digital media in classes. Early on in the home-school movement, he took note, and added materials to his efforts to make Latin

teaching easier and fun for students in this new, non-traditional style of learning.

An important part of these efforts was sponsoring social gatherings to foster a strong community among the classicists of North America and, in recent years, classicists from other countries beyond the U. S. and Canada. Our honoree was a person who enjoyed people.

At the beginning of this testimonial it was said that this was a man of passions; Classics and teaching were definitely that for him. But there were two other things vital to knowing this man. He was very proud of his Slovak heritage. He brought attention to the literature and heritage of Slovakia. Mixed in with the books of his beloved Latin and Greek, there are many which show this love of his ancestors' homeland. For these efforts the government of the Slovak Republic gave recognition for his work on behalf of Slovak heritage.

But the great love of his life was his family, his wife of over 50 years, and their son. It was rare to see him without at least one of them, but usually both. It was a matched set, and that set meant a great deal to him.

Plaudite quaeso Ladislaus J. Bolchazy
In perpetuum ave atque vale