

Stephen Luster (1938-2010)

Steve was an exceptional collector, exhibitor, editor/publisher, researcher/author, plus a dedicated judge, mentor, benefactor, and society/show volunteer. He joined NAPEX in 1990 and was a Director for 14 years. The first year he was a Floor Manager, second year Deputy Show Chairman, and the third our Show Chairman, a position he held six years. He was also Exhibits Chairman (1991-92) and Judges Chairman (1996-2001). Concurrently, he was also our Corporation President five times and VP twice.



Because of his health, he stepped aside after the 2003 show. In 2001 he was told he had multiple myeloma and had only 2-5 years to live but his courageous fight extended that to nine years. He did reduce his participation but kept active and he exhibited two exhibits at NAPEX 2010 and attended the awards banquet. Steve was the current Editor/Publisher of *Europa News* (Europa Study Unit) at his passing. He died October 13, 2010 and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on January 19, 2011.

In 1995, Steve was the Co-founder, Vice President, and General Chairman (Philatelic Division) of the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. While separate from NAPEX, he involved all of us in this show as NAPEX took a bye and we supported the larger show. As this show had no seed money, Steve donated both his time and resources. At his urging, we also donated \$1,000 a year from 1996 to 2005 and all of us were recruited by him as *volunteers*.

It was difficult, if not impossible, to say no to a request Steve made. His tenure at NAPEX was during a crucial period of change. His summary for a motion was oratory of the first degree and based on moral persuasion as well as the logical interpretation of facts. He sponsored many controversial decisions and we cannot remember any not going his way. We called him Mr. NAPEX and our culture became the NAPEX WAY. Steve was a top executive; however, when there was no volunteer to do a clerical task, he did it himself.

In short, he gave time, devotion, and his resources to our hobby. All of us at NAPEX, ESU, his many friends, plus the entire stamp community will miss him.