

## IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE P. LEWNES

George P. Lewnes, 86, who served as an Administrative Law Judge at the Federal Power Commission (FPC), later the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, for 20 years, died on September 12, 2010. Judge Lewnes was initially hired by the FPC as a trial attorney in 1959 and, in 1970, was promoted to Assistant General Counsel for the Gas Certificates Division. While serving as Assistant General Counsel, he was twice nominated by the FPC for the Justice Tom C. Clark Award for outstanding achievements as a government attorney. He was appointed an Administrative Law Judge in 1976 and served in that position until he retired in 1996.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was the middle of three children. George served in the U.S. Army in World War II under General George Patton. All who knew him heard many stories of his European service under "Old Blood and Guts." Following an honorable discharge from the Army in 1945, he attended college, and then New York Law School from which he received an LLB in 1955. Putting his Greek background to good use, for the next year he worked as a special investigator for the U.S. Department of State in Athens, Greece, and then returned to the U.S. to work as an attorney advisor at the U.S. Department of State's Fraud & Litigation Branch until 1959 when he was hired by the FPC.

Anyone who practiced before the FERC in the 20 years when George served as an Administrative Law Judge can testify to his integrity, enthusiasm, warmth, good humor, and sharpness of wit. He was an excellent teacher of the nuts and bolts of FERC practice to his law clerks. Sitting in a hearing room with him was never dull, but even better was to sit with him in the Greek-owned lunch room at the FERC's offices at 825 North Capitol and hear his stories of trying cases before the FPC, or chasing malefactors in Greece. The latter formed the basis for his one known foray into fiction, the espionage novel "Tikla," recounting the adventures of a fictitious George Damion stationed in Athens, Greece.

Judge Lewnes took his obligations as a judge very seriously and gave all energy practitioners, both veterans and novices, a fair hearing in his court room. His initial decisions were painstakingly written, and he was perhaps unduly fond of the mixed metaphor to enliven the FERC-ese of such decisions. To his bemusement, an excerpt from one was featured in the Washington Times' weekly "Gobbledygook" column.

During his life, George was active in the Golden Gloves program and enjoyed fishing and the beach. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gloria, two sons, Peter and Mark, and one daughter, Valerie.