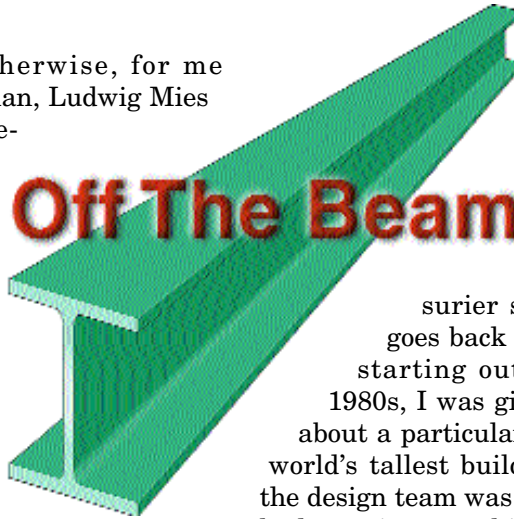


As much as I may wish otherwise, for me famous names such as Fazlur Khan, Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe and John A. Roebling will always be simply impressive historical figures. This year's recipients of AISC's top awards, however, are more than just references in papers and textbooks. In addition to his being one of the leading designers of his time, I'll always remember William J. LeMessurier (who will be presented with the J. Lloyd Kimbrough Award at this year's NASCC) for his kindness and willingness to help everyone. And Theodore V. Galambos (who will receive the Geerhard Haaijer Educator Award at this year's NASCC) will always be remembered not just for his remarkable contributions to the steel design and construction community but also for his quiet sense of humor.

Whenever I think of Ted, I always think back to the brief scene last year when I introduced him to my wife.

My wife and I were strolling through the Aquarium of the Americas during a dinner at last year's Steel Conference in New Orleans. As we walked, we would often stop and chat with various people. Spying one particular face across the room, I guided my wife toward the small, distinguished man and introduced her to Professor Theodore V.

## Off The Beam



Galambos—whereupon she immediately blurted out: Ted Galambos! You're the father of LRFD." To which he quickly replied, "But there is no mother."

My favorite Bill LeMessurier story is equally personal, but goes back a lot farther. When I was first starting out in journalism in the early 1980s, I was given the assignment of writing about a particular owner's plan for building the world's tallest building. One problem: no one on the design team was willing to talk with me. Still, I had to write something. Fortunately, one of my colleagues recommended I give Bill a call—while he wasn't involved on this particular project, he was widely acknowledged as one of the foremost experts on tall building design.

Two hours later, I had my story. Bill was more than willing to talk to me about the then state-of-the-art of tall building design. I later learned that this type of kindness was routine for him. Whether you were a student, colleague or even a journalist, Bill always had time for you.

I hope many of you will join me in honoring Ted and Bill at this year's NASCC. Both are well deserving of their honors.

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