

Mr. Habeck served as the 9th PSPA president. He passed away while at work five years ago on October 25, 2005 after helping to celebrate the Society's 30th anniversary the week before. He was a great clinician, friend to many, family man, photographer and tireless worker. Michael graduated from the Duke University PA program which was the first such training program of its kind in the U.S. Duke's first class of PAs graduated in 1967. Only eight years later, in 1975, Mike matriculated from the Duke program and moved to Philadelphia where he worked in Surgery at Roxborough Memorial Hospital. He was one of a few early pioneers for the PA profession at a time when there was no legal definition of a PA, no definition of what PAs could do clinically, no assurance of employability given hospital bylaws, attorneys with no statutes to reference or case law to cite, and a state medical board with no regulations to implement referable to PAs. Mike, along with a small cadre of colleagues, set out to change things. And so, a new profession was defined and established in Pennsylvania. Mike was a tireless worker in that effort. He rose through the leadership ranks progressively taking on more and more responsibilities. He was a director-at-large for the Society from 1980 until 1983 and he was the PSPA Secretary for six year from 1983 till 1989. During his years as Secretary he brought the Society into the modern age by computerizing our membership roster.

During his term as president, the Society won the AAPA award for Chapter Excellence in Public Education. Senate House Bill 2091 amending Title 75 was enacted allowing PAs and NPs to conduct examinations required for drivers license and school bus drivers. The PSPA went on-line on the internet at [pspa@usaor.net](mailto:pspa@usaor.net).

After serving as PSPA president he did not stop working for the Society. He continued to serve in multiple roles including director-at-large, Society historian and unofficial photographer.

At his memorial service one of his coworkers reflected "Ours was a 10 year road trip with Mike; sometimes laughing with him, at other times crying to him and even, on occasion, disagreeing with him. On many occasions we just sat and talked about life. Mike often spoke of his parents, children and grandchildren and simply glowed while relaying his stories about them. His love and commitment to them was boldly apparent."