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I have been thinking a lot about the events in that summer of 1995, and how cruel fate can sometimes be. You may recall that Ray's death was only a couple of days before the AAA Meeting at which his lifelong friend and colleague, Fred Streuling, was to be honored with Ray's award. I still do not know how Alan Ford and Fred made it through that presentation, as Alan read Fred's eloquent remarks from the 1993 presentation to Ray. Fred chaired the Awards Committee that year when the group secretly put the award together, and the universe would have been in perfect harmony if only Ray could have been there to see his friend honored.

As I look back on my spotty career I realize that, even though I was not a Texas graduate, three of my most cherished moments were all associated with Ray:

1. I absolutely treasured the privilege of working with Ray, Horace and Hershel for those few years on the textbook;
2. I was so happy to have played a small part in making sure that Ray was honored with this award in the year he retired; and, last but not least,
3. I was deeply honored (and surprised!) to actually be chosen for the award last year. It is only fitting that Ray be remembered on the 15th Anniversary of his retirement. Two final thoughts on Ray:
 1. He probably had more faculty members call him "mentor" than anyone else in academic history, and
 2. If all the faculty who taught from Ray's first book had actually adopted it, he would have been listed in the Forbes 100!