

Charles Donohue (- 2016)(†)

Chuck Donohoe was formerly Executive Vice President and General Patent Counsel for Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and had been a fixture of the Washington, D.C., patent scene for decades – while also spending a considerable amount of time in Seoul.

Chuck was a trusted friend to many and respected by all. He was an active member of the Dean's IP Advisory Board at the George Washington University Law School during the period this writer was associated with the school.

In recent years, Chuck was a full time resident of the Eastern Shore. A vision of his life in Delaware is shared in an interview he gave in 2013 (*attached*).

With great sadness,
Hal

RBHA BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES DONOHOE

— by Judy Mellen

Rehoboth has new full-time residents: Chuck and Nancy Donohoe. Chuck is on the board of the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association and so, lucky me, I got to interview him and meet both of them.



Moving here from Olney, Maryland, Chuck lived most of his early life through high school in Zanesville, Ohio, although he was born in Iowa City, Iowa. After high school, Chuck went to The Ohio State University where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering and was then hired by G.M. at its Michigan Proving Grounds. Michigan was

entirely too cold for him! Plus, he knew that while he was really good at math, he didn't like engineering all that much.

However, G.M. felt that he was worth keeping on board, and since they were in need of a patent attorney, they offered to send him to law school. So off he went to Washington, D.C., to the George Washington University Law School, which at the time was THE place for patent attorneys. He graduated with a J.D. in 1970.

After 2 more years with GM, Chuck moved to the Burroughs Corporation for two years before joining a "patent boutique" law firm, Cushman, Darby and Cushman in D.C. where Samsung Electronics eventually became one of Chuck's clients. After litigating several patent disputes for Samsung, it asked Chuck to sever his 17 year partnership with the Cushman firm and become Samsung's General Counsel.

In 1989 Chuck moved to Seoul, Korea, with the family, his wife Kathy and four children. They were there for three years, and then the family returned to the U.S. Chuck continued on with Samsung in Seoul until the end of 2003, alternating one month in Seoul and one month in the U.S. Of the experience living in Seoul, Chuck says it was easy because most people he encountered spoke at least "street level" English; corporate executives were required to speak fluent English; and the street signs and other markers were in English and Korean.

In early 1997, soon after they bought their house in Rehoboth, Kathy died suddenly of an aneurysm. In September, 2003, Chuck married Nancy, who was a high school friend of his sister, and he retired from Samsung. He then and until 2012 became the Chief Intellectual Property Officer for Pachira, an Ottawa based company that licenses patents for small businesses. He has done a great deal of testifying as an expert and fact witness in patent litigations, and that continues until the present with testimony in various U.S. courts and in Stockholm last year and a trial in Vienna coming up.

Chuck's children are all grown and on their own now: Kelly is a nurse in Richmond, Virginia, and has three children; Patrick is a software engineer and lives in Fulton, Maryland, with two children; C.R is a film editor, lives in Burbank, CA, and is newly married; and Mark is a Southeast Asia Regional Manager for an international moving company, lives in Bangkok, and is not married. Nancy has one son, Tommy, who lives with his wife and three children in Sherborn, Massachusetts.

The house in Rehoboth was used as a second home until recently. Now Nancy and Chuck have begun a long anticipated major renovation. The house on Columbia Avenue has a history of its own. It was built in Lewes in 1947 by Dennard Quillen's father who founded Quillen's Hardware. The house was moved from Lewes to its present location in the 1960s by the new owners, Jay and Dian Stein, of Stuart Kingston, who then sold it to Clem Conger and his wife in the late 1970s. Clem was curator of the White House when Jackie Kennedy had it refurbished and was also curator of the State Department during the Reagan Administration. The Rehoboth house bears signs of Conger's imprint, from the huge back screen porch to the incredible Italian marble fireplace and sconces and chandeliers.

In the summer of 2012, Chuck and Nancy made the house their primary residence and, when the renovations are completed, will sell their Maryland house. They love Rehoboth, the diversity, the friendliness and the sense of community. Chuck feels that the City is well run and he wants to participate in their new home town. "To the extent that I am able, I want to continue to improve this wonderful place."

Well said, Chuck.