

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

XAVIER A. ARAGONA

CHARLES R. ASHURST

MELVIN G. BERGMAN

JOHN A. BUCHANAN

EDWARD P. CAMUS

JAMES F. FARMER

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. GARRITY

LEE HAISLIP, JR.

IRVIN A. LAVINE

THE HONORABLE PAUL MANNES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

4 : 00 p.m.

COURTROOM M3400

## COURTHOUSE

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

Khalilah Blyden

## Official Court Reporter

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9                   In any event, my fellow members of the Bar,  
10                  my friends, the families of those that we honor here,  
11                  and all of the judges who joined us this afternoon,  
12                  Judge Hotten from our Court of Appeals, I was hoping the  
13                  Great Sanhedrin, Judge Harrell, would be with us today,  
14                  but his health is on the fritz there.

1 to senior judges. Judge Clarke.

2 JUDGE CLARKE: Hi.

3 JUDGE NICHOLS: Judge Toni Clarke, my old  
4 neighbor. All right.

5 Our senior judges, Judge Femia, Judge  
6 Sothoron, Judge Whalen, Judge Perry, Judge Mason and  
7 Judge Sherrie Krauser, a special welcome.

8 Brian Denton of our District Court, Judge  
9 Monty Ahalt is here. I don't know how I missed Monty.  
10 Okay. How are we doing? We got everybody? Judge  
11 Lamasney.

12 I know the Sheriff's here, and the Chief  
13 Deputy Sheriff Darrin Palmer, charged with keeping our  
14 lives safe. Don't let me leave them out.

15 As I said, I'm very pleased to welcome you  
16 all to our annual memorial service. We have done this  
17 for more than six decades. Our records of this event go  
18 back to 1950. It is important that we take a few  
19 moments each year to remember those judges and lawyers  
20 who gave so much in service to the people of our state.

21 This marks the first time that I am able to  
22 preside over our Court since Chief Judge Martin retired  
23 last May. I feel a little like Peter O'Toole in the  
24 movie Good-Bye Mr. Chips.

25 He was describing to the lads at the

1 exclusive Brookfield School how it was that he became  
2 the headmaster. He said words to the effect, it took  
3 two world wars, the loss of an entire generation of  
4 young British men and a very favorable decision by the  
5 Board of Trustees that made it all happen.

6                   In my case, it is much simpler. Twenty-five  
7 judges senior to me either quit, retired, died, joined  
8 our superior courts. I prefer to think of this as  
9 "attrition" in one word if you will.

10                  Consequently, I have exercised my  
11 prerogatives and decided to go with the white stripes  
12 that the 12th Chief Judge Ernest A. Loveless began  
13 wearing long ago. That was not long after the Court of  
14 Appeals decided that red was right for them.

15                  The striping was a little more difficult  
16 than I had anticipated. As many of you know, I chair  
17 the Board of our hospital. I frequently go to the  
18 Chinese laundry not far from there. And I went, and I  
19 talked to Gina, the nice lady there, and I said, "I need  
20 white stripes. Two." She goes, "Stripes."

21                  I don't speak much Chinese, and her English  
22 is a little weak. In any event, we finally took a  
23 picture of Judge Loveless in his robe.

24                  When it came back, it was a little more blue  
25 than I had in mind, but we're going to go with it. It

1 was a lot of trouble to go to. She was kind enough to  
2 help.

3 Today, we will remember our colleagues not  
4 so much with a sense of sadness, but with knowledge of  
5 all that they did for us and the people of Maryland.

6 Let me now call upon Senior Judge, the 16th  
7 Chief Judge of this Court, Judge William D. Missouri,  
8 please.

9 JUDGE MISSOURI: Thank you, Chief Judge.  
10 Thank you to our Chief Judge Nichols. Greetings to  
11 everyone here assembled, to all of my colleagues, Judge  
12 Hotten, with the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Krauser,  
13 Court of Special Appeals, and, of course, to all of  
14 those judges who have now been renamed from retired to  
15 senior with one stroke of the pen by Chief Judge  
16 Barbera.

17 You know, this occasion is very important to  
18 me. Bud Marshall used to mandate that we attend all of  
19 these memorial services. And as the former prosecutors  
20 will tell you, you didn't have a choice, you had to  
21 attend or else you got written up. You got a demerit or  
22 something unsaid happened to you, but you had to attend.

23 And so I am very happy that Bud did that,  
24 because it allowed me to understand exactly what is  
25 expected of one at a memorial service. And therefore, I

1 could not and did not and would not tell someone, well,  
2 really, I don't know, I don't know what goes on there.  
3 And I say that because I have had several people tell me  
4 they didn't understand what happens at a memorial  
5 service.

6 So tell your friends to come out to a  
7 memorial service. It is something that is worthwhile.  
8 It is in honor of our colleagues. And I think that you  
9 will find that you know something about our colleagues  
10 that you never even had a guess about. So it's a  
11 history lesson, also.

12 One more thing I'd like to say. There are  
13 several women in this Court who are mothers, by giving  
14 birth to children, but they're also mothers because they  
15 decide to take upon themselves the mothering of others.  
16 And they decided to check up on me because I was having  
17 some health challenges.

18 And starting with my secretary Iris, and my  
19 former paralegal Joe, Judge Hotten, Judge Adams and the  
20 County attorney, they checked on me regularly to find  
21 out what was going on.

22 And at one point in time, I thought that  
23 someone else would be standing here, but I thank God  
24 that that's not true. It's not that I'm so zealous of  
25 the position, it's that I would rather be standing here

1 than be some place else.

2 At this time, we are going to ask  
3 Christopher Aragona to come forward on behalf of Xavier.

4 JUDGE NICHOLS: Judge Missouri, if you don't  
5 mind, I'd like to have the President of the Bar. For  
6 some reason, I didn't get a copy until late in the game  
7 here. If he could just give his opening remarks and  
8 welcome everyone, I would appreciate it.

9 JUDGE MISSOURI: Oh, I'm sorry.

10 JUDGE NICHOLS: I don't know how we missed  
11 it, but we did.

12 JUDGE MISSOURI: I would never overstep the  
13 President of the Bar.

14 (Mr. Walter Green approaches.)

15 MR. GREEN: Thank you, guys. Thank you,  
16 Your Honor.

17 I'm not quite the president yet, the  
18 President-Elect of the Bar Association. I'm Walter  
19 Green. Our president could not be present today, so I  
20 am standing in his place, and I welcome all of you on  
21 behalf of the Bar Association to our 2016 Memorial  
22 Service.

23 We are here to honor and pay tribute to the  
24 lives and to the professional careers of our colleagues  
25 that have passed away this year.

1                   In welcoming you, I am going to try to do  
2 something that I am not known for. As most of the  
3 judges sitting before you know, I'm going to try to be  
4 brief.

5                   I do have a short poem that I think is  
6 appropriate for today's service. I'd like to read it to  
7 you. The title of it is called, "The Dash."

8                   I read of a man who stood to speak at the  
9 funeral of his friend. He referred to the dates on his  
10 tombstone from the beginning to the end.

11                  He noted that first came the date of his  
12 birth and spoke of the second with tears, but he said  
13 that what mattered most of all was the dash between  
14 those years.

15                  That dash represents all the time that he  
16 spent alive on earth. And now, only those who loved him  
17 know what that little line is worth, for it matters not  
18 how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash, what  
19 matters is how we live and love and how we spend our  
20 dash.

21                  So think about this long and hard: Are  
22 there things you'd like to change? For you never know  
23 how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

24                  If we could just slow down enough to  
25 consider what's true and what's real and always try to

1 understand the way other people feel and be less quick  
2 to anger and show appreciation more, and love the people  
3 in our lives like we've never loved before, if we treat  
4 each other with respect and more often wear a smile,  
5 remembering that this special dash might only last a  
6 little while.

7 So when your eulogy is being read with your  
8 life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the  
9 things they have to say about how you spent your dash.

10 Each of our colleagues that are being  
11 remembered today had unique careers and significantly  
12 contributed to our legal community. Thank you for  
13 sharing in remembrance of each of them in their dash.

14 (Applause from the audience.)

15 JUDGE MISSOURI: Thank you.

16 Now Mr. Aragona.

17 (Mr. Christopher Aragona approaches.)

18 MR. ARAGONA: Thank you, Your Honor,  
19 Honorable Judges of the Court, members of the Bar  
20 Association, family and friends.

21 My father, Xavier Aragona, would have been  
22 82 years old yesterday. As it were, he died on July 7th  
23 from heart failure.

24 It has been said that we all die two times  
25 in this life, the first time when we pass a mortal death

1 and the second time is the last time that we are  
2 remembered.

3 So this is a fitting thing that we do, that  
4 we remember the people who came before us and amidst us  
5 and with the hope that perhaps we can glean something  
6 from their experience that might help us as we go  
7 forward in our process.

8 So I want to thank all of you for attending.  
9 I certainly want to thank Judge Missouri and his wife,  
10 Delores, for making sure that this went forward in the  
11 right way.

12 My father came to Prince George's County,  
13 Maryland in 1960. He was 26 years old. He was a newly  
14 minted lawyer. He had just passed the New York State  
15 Bar Exam. He had done an internship in the Justice  
16 Department for the Federal District of New York.

17 He had a job offer to be a district attorney  
18 in Nassau County, and he, 26 years old, had already been  
19 married for four years, a good Catholic boy, to my  
20 mother who is here. I'd like to recognize my mother.  
21 They would have been married 60 years next month.

22 And my mother, people might not know this,  
23 she's a Charter Member of many civic associations in the  
24 County. The arts, the antique arts, and the ladies  
25 Democratic Party, those were all things that she did to

1 try to support my father's efforts.

2 They were from New York. My mom was from  
3 Brooklyn, my dad from Long Island, and they came down  
4 here in 1960 because my grandfather was a homebuilder,  
5 and it was getting competitive in Long Island, and he  
6 wanted to break out and find a new area, so they decided  
7 that they were going to come to Maryland.

8 So my grandfather, he was an Italian  
9 immigrant. He worked in the coal mines as a child. He  
10 fought the first World War, and he thought this was the  
11 place to go.

12 He built a subdivision called Brooke Manor.  
13 It's right near Fort Foote Elementary School. It's  
14 adjacent to the National Harbor, and it was a wild  
15 success. They made a lot of money.

16 And my dad wanted to go back to New York.  
17 He asked for some seed money, could he go back and take  
18 this job. He had already started his family, and he got  
19 into a big argument with my grandfather.

20 It was very Italian, and that was it. My  
21 father was on his own, and he started his professional  
22 practice at that time. That's when his life as a lawyer  
23 began.

24 Now my father was not a perfect man, he had  
25 lots of flaws, but when it came to the practice of law,

1 he excelled at the most important thing, and that was  
2 getting clients, getting business. And what I wanted to  
3 do was share some of the things that worked for him,  
4 because I think that's a good takeaway.

5                   He had a Dale Carnegie kind of approach.  
6 You know, he thought that if you wanted other people to  
7 take interest in you, you had to take interest in them.  
8 He loved his profession. He thought the greatest thing  
9 in the world was to be a lawyer. You couldn't beat  
10 that. This talk about lawyers, doctors, forget about  
11 it. And he got that from his father. He would see the  
12 different levels of commercial interaction.

13                   My grandfather owned, at one time, a lumber  
14 yard, a furniture store, and my dad would see him, his  
15 father, interact with other people. And when they went  
16 to the banks, he saw the lawyers, and the lawyers had  
17 suits on, had a fancy fountain pen, and they got  
18 respect. And he said, "I want to be a lawyer," from a  
19 young age.

20                   And he loved the courthouse. He thought it  
21 was the greatest thing. You could come here, it was a  
22 living classroom. You could learn. You could come  
23 watch the judges and other lawyers. You could see  
24 somebody do a case that you were going to have to do in  
25 a few weeks.

1 So he loved everything about being a lawyer.  
2 And if you came into contact with my father, you were  
3 going to know he was a lawyer because he would give you  
4 his card. Everywhere he went, he'd slip people his  
5 card. And he did it in a very subtle way. He'd be in  
6 the grocery line, talking to a lady, and he would say,  
7 "If you ever need a good man look me up. If you need  
8 help, you look me up."

9                   He gave his card to everybody, and then  
10                  these people would call him. And my father was very  
11                  generous with his time. He had a plaque on his desk,  
12                  and it was a quote from Lincoln. And it said that a  
13                  lawyer's time and advice are his stock and trade. So he  
14                  always would talk to people.

1 could never really lose when he went to court because  
2 the most important thing is that his client would see  
3 how hard he tried, that he fought for his client. And  
4 my father knew that if you went into the trench on your  
5 client's problem, and you bled with your client, your  
6 client would never forget that. They would be loyal to  
7 you. And that was a big part of his success.

8 Also, I want to say that he thought that the  
9 worst thing that you could ever do as a lawyer was be  
10 unwilling to contest, to contest the other side, that  
11 people thought that you wouldn't go to the mat, he  
12 figured you'd be finished. So he thought you had to  
13 maintain a balance of being what he called an  
14 unpredictable retaliator. You couldn't let people pay  
15 you for what you were going to do. He believed it was  
16 your job to push the contest, especially in a context  
17 where he couldn't win.

18 You know, it's like the State's Attorney  
19 comes up to you and says, "We want Count 1." And my  
20 father would say, "I could do Count 1 on my own. I can  
21 fall on my face and do Count 1."

22 So if you were going to try and push him  
23 over, that was the worst way to deal with my father.  
24 You could talk to him, you could reason with him, you  
25 could flatter him and really get somewhere, but if you

1 tried to go over the top on him, he was going to come  
2 out swinging.

3 So my father was also very much a straight  
4 talker. He always gave straight, honest advice.  
5 Sometimes you talk to people, they give you advice, and  
6 you think to yourself, are they telling me what's best  
7 for me, or are they telling me what's best for them.  
8 You never had that problem with my father. He always  
9 gave you, you know, true advice. Good advice. You  
10 know, these guys who would say give me a bunch of money,  
11 and I'll make it go away, they would never last. You  
12 could never function this way.

13 Also, back in those days, they wouldn't  
14 write confirming letters, you know, because your word  
15 meant a lot. He believed it was very important to  
16 maintain your truthfulness and your honesty in all your  
17 dealings at the highest level because once people knew  
18 that you were not straight, not honest, you'd be  
19 finished as a lawyer, and you'd be finished with the  
20 Court.

21 Also, my father was very generous. He had  
22 an expression. He called it throwing bread on the  
23 water. And what it amounted to is, he would give away  
24 his time and his money to people because he figured it  
25 would always come back to him.

1                   And when I was a young lawyer, one of the  
2 first cases of people I got assigned to was some man  
3 comes in, and my dad says to me, "Whatever this guy  
4 needs," he says, "take care of this guy."

5                   So I would. It wasn't big things. It was  
6 help him collect money, or weigh in with his landlord on  
7 something. And I noticed, whenever I did work for this  
8 man, he would show up with a pizza, bring my father a  
9 pizza.

10                  I would say to my dad, "This guy is paying  
11 us in pizza." And he'd look at me, and he'd say, "Well,  
12 Chris, it's brick oven pizza." And I'd say, "Dad, if  
13 you'd let me charge this guy a fee, I'd bring you pizzas  
14 every week." I'd have no problem, you know.

15                  And he explained to me, no, that, you know,  
16 this man owned this bar, and over the years, he had sent  
17 him, you know, so many drunk drivers, assault and  
18 battery cases and, "You stay with this guy, Chris."

19                  I said, "Dad, he hasn't sent us anything in  
20 a long time." It didn't matter to him. He believed  
21 that you always maintained the quality of your  
22 relationships with people to protect your practice.

23                  He would do cases for free. I'd say, "Dad,  
24 what are you doing, doing a case for free?" He would  
25 say, "Son, somebody had to help that guy. He was in

1 such bad shape, somebody had to help him." And then  
2 he'd say to me, "It'll come back to us."

3                   And inevitably it would. That was the  
4 secret. My father's clients, they loved him because he  
5 cared so much about them in every way, because they were  
6 his clients. And they would bring him food, and they  
7 would bring him presents, they would bring him booze he  
8 didn't even drink.

9                   And I remember one time, he represented this  
10 lady who had a liquor store in Laurel, and she was  
11 having a bad time with some people in the city there who  
12 wanted to, in her mind, put her out of business. And my  
13 father went up there, and he stood up to the city. They  
14 had an administrative hearing, and he gave them a good  
15 way to go.

16                   And the lady, of course, paid my father, but  
17 like a week later, she brought in bowling jackets for  
18 the whole office with everybody's name stitched on it  
19 and everything. And people wanted to do extra for my  
20 father because that's what he did for them. He gave  
21 them all he had because once you were his client, he  
22 wanted you to be his client forever.

23                   So those are things that I will always  
24 remember about my father, and also the fact that he  
25 lived his life with tremendous hope. You know, his

1 attitude was you just had to keep trying, you just had  
2 to keep working, and if you did, something good would  
3 happen, that the next good break was right around the  
4 corner, you know, if you did that. And he lived his  
5 life with hope. He gave his clients hope.

6 And I think that was really the key to his  
7 success because when he was starting out, he didn't have  
8 any money. He was broke. He was anxious about it. And  
9 he always related to people at that level. He knew what  
10 it was like to try to make a living, to feed your  
11 family, to try to improve yourself.

12 He was like a life coach. If you were his  
13 client, he'd talk to you about your life and say, all  
14 right, you should join the military, or you should  
15 become a nurse, you know. And these people would listen  
16 to him, and they'd come back years later and say, "Your  
17 father pointed me in this direction, and I'll never  
18 forget it."

19 So when I think of my father, those are the  
20 things I'll always remember, how much he cared about his  
21 clients, how much it meant to him to be a lawyer and his  
22 standing in the community on that basis.

23 So I thank you all for this opportunity to  
24 share his story, and I hope some of that is of use to  
25 some of us. Thank you.

1 (Applause in the audience.)

2 (Mr. Patrick McAndrew approaches.)

7 JUDGE MISSOURI: Okay. We certainly give  
8 homage to our Circuit and Administrative Judge. And at  
9 this time, we'd like for Pat McAndrew to come forward.

10                   And as you do so, Pat, I am going to  
11 recognize the Sheriff for Prince George's County who has  
12 decided to honor us with his presence. Sheriff? Stand  
13 up, Sheriff.

14 SHERIFF: (Standing.)

15 (Applause in the audience.)

16 JUDGE MISSOURI: Thank you, Sheriff.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you, Judge Missouri.

20 I'd like to first thank Judge Missouri for  
21 affording me this opportunity to pay tribute to my dear  
22 friend, our dear friend, and departed colleague Mel  
23 Bergman.

I spoke yesterday with Mel's wife, Jo Ina

25 Unfortunately, she is not able to be here today, but she

1 did ask that I convey to all of you the warmth that she  
2 has felt, the support that she has received all the  
3 while when Mel was ill, then unfortunately when Mel  
4 passed.

5                   But for myself, as a newly minted lawyer, I  
6 had the opportunity to join Mel, Joe Gaffigan and Murray  
7 Zitver at their office in Beltsville, Maryland, and  
8 that, for me, marked a 20-year association with Mel.  
9 That's a 20-year association that will continue in my  
10 heart well into the future.

11                  Mel and I worked together to the end, and I  
12 am going to tell you a little bit about that. Prior to  
13 becoming an attorney, I knew Mel in passing through his  
14 work for the Fraternal Order of Police.

15                  In the '60s, the '70s and early '80s, he did  
16 a magnificent job representing law enforcement officers  
17 here in Prince George's County and across the State, and  
18 he had a great reputation. Here I was working with him.

19                  I thought I knew Mel at the time, but  
20 really, I only knew him in passing. Over the next 20  
21 years, though, I did get to know Mel a great deal more.

22                  As many of you know, Mel was rarely at a  
23 loss for words, some might say he had the gift of gab,  
24 but beneath all of that, there was a depth of knowledge  
25 without measure.

1                   As a young lawyer, I took full advantage of  
2 Mel's willingness to share with me his experience, his  
3 insight, his tips on how to properly handle a case, but  
4 most importantly, how to properly be a lawyer.

5                   Over the years, Mel and I tried many cases  
6 together. We prosecuted appeals in Annapolis. And I  
7 can say to you, each and every one of those experiences  
8 with Mel was a very distinct experience that I will  
9 always remember.

10                  The simple fact is, intellectually, Mel  
11 pushed me to be a better lawyer. Many of you may not  
12 know this, but Mel wasn't on the track to be a lawyer.  
13 In fact, he had a degree in organic chemistry from  
14 George Washington University.

15                  The economy being what it was at that time,  
16 he came up with the idea to practice law. It was  
17 something that interested him very much.

18                  In many ways, Mel was just very well read.  
19 For example, he often boasted to us about reading  
20 encyclopaedias cover to cover as a child growing up in  
21 Brooklyn, New York. Mel's brilliance was certainly  
22 hidden beneath his easy going, disarming manner. Make  
23 no mistake, Mel was a very intelligent man. In fact,  
24 our staff often referred to Mel as a walking Wikipedia.

25                  Mel was truly a student of the law even in

1 his final days. While he was in Crofton Rehabilitation,  
2 if a new appellate opinion were issued that I thought  
3 might interest him, I'd ring Mel on his cell phone,  
4 "This is what the Court said in this case today." Mel  
5 would go off, and we would have a discussion with gusto  
6 as to his views on that holding in that particular case.

7 Now as I came to know Mel, I learned a great  
8 deal about the important moments in his life. The first  
9 important moment is the pride that he felt with the  
10 support that he received from his father when he made  
11 the decision to abandon chemistry and go to law school.

12 He spoke often of his father's pride when he  
13 passed law school, passed the Bar exam and went into  
14 private practice here in Prince George's County.

15 When Mel entered private practice here in  
16 Prince George's in 1966, his father, as a gift, gave him  
17 a magnificently crafted mahogany office set for his new  
18 law practice.

19 In Mel's final days that he insisted, he and  
20 Jo Ina, insisted that I become the owner of that  
21 furniture. Not his children or his brother or anybody  
22 else, but he wanted me to have it. It remains in my  
23 office today. It adorns my office. It is something  
24 that I will cherish forever.

25 Mel's love for his wife Jo Ina was

1 unmatched. As co-equal partners, I don't think there's  
2 a more formidable team out there. They were the  
3 ultimate team. Mel was devoted to Jo Ina. When he had  
4 his law practice in Hyattsville, and then also in  
5 Riverdale in the late '60s and early '70s, Jo Ina often  
6 worked for Mel. And Mel used to tell a story about a  
7 woman that showed up in his office. Jo Ina greeted her.  
8 She was there because she needed to have a simple will  
9 prepared.

10 Mel's position was, she's not here with an  
11 appointment, she didn't have the ability to pay, and he  
12 was prepared to turn her away. Jo Ina wanted no part of  
13 that. She told Mel he needed to stop what he was doing,  
14 see this woman and write this woman a will. That, I  
15 think, is an example of the compassion of both Mel and  
16 Jo Ina. Compassion, understanding and graciousness,  
17 they define Mel. Mel, in my view, was a constant  
18 gentleman.

19 Mel rarely had cross words with anybody.  
20 And from where I have sat on many occasions, he  
21 certainly had justification from time to time, but he  
22 simply didn't. That wasn't Mel's style.

23 One of the highlights in Mel's life and that  
24 of his wife Jo Ina was the joy that they shared in 1986  
25 when they adopted a brother and sister from South Korea.

1 Michelle, at the time was 10. Brian was 8. They worked  
2 through Catholic charities to have this adoption  
3 accomplished. They went to BWI to meet their children.  
4 The stories that Mel would tell about the pride that he  
5 and Jo Ina share in their children were never ending.  
6 Their pride in their children was beyond measure.

7 It turned out, Michelle and Brian were fine  
8 examples of Mel and Jo Ina's parenting. Both of them  
9 excelled in a science and technology program in Eleanor  
10 Roosevelt, went on to college, and then excelled in  
11 their respective fields.

12 Mel, in particular, was proud of his  
13 daughter Michelle who followed his footsteps and became  
14 an attorney. The arrival of grandchildren for Mel and  
15 Jo Ina was yet another defining moment for Mel.  
16 Whenever they would visit with his grandchildren, when  
17 he got to the office, the stories about the kids flowed,  
18 pictures included. Mel simply had so much love in his  
19 heart to offer.

20 He cherished his wife Jo Ina, his children  
21 Michelle and Brian, and his grandchildren, and he leaves  
22 all of us touched by his friendship, his compassion, his  
23 gentleness, his wit and his intellect. I believe that  
24 we are each enriched by our time with Mel. His memory  
25 will certainly be everlasting.

1 (Applause in the audience.)

2 JUDGE MISSOURI: For those of you who noted  
3 that I did not go alphabetically, because I wanted to  
4 make sure that Pat came up here. I felt like I was  
5 going around a rosebud bush trying to get him. Every  
6 time I thought I had the right person, he said, "No,  
7 it's not me. Steve Orenstein is supposed to do it.  
8 No." Steve said, "Not me." So now that you have made  
9 the presentation, I feel satisfied.

11 (Mr. Neal Conway approaches.)

12 JUDGE NICHOLS: While he's making his way,  
13 Judge El Amin has joined us, as well as Judge Erik Nyce.

14 Please, sir.

15 MR. CONWAY: Honorable Judges of the Courts,  
16 ladies and gentlemen, Luella. Luella, I thank you for  
17 asking me, for giving me the honor of speaking about  
18 Chuck today.

19 I first was introduced to Chuck Ashurst in  
20 2007 by a board member from Community Legal Services,  
21 Young Song, and Young assured me that he was going to  
22 mentor Chuck in family law, that Chuck was in a new  
23 career, he was now practicing law.

24 And it was one of those moments when you  
25 meet someone, you know you've met them before, but you

1 can't figure out where. And so after awhile, I started  
2 asking, "Well, what did you do in your previous career?"  
3 He said, "I was a mailman."

4 And it just dawned on me, he was the mailman  
5 delivering our mail in Riverdale. And, as a matter of  
6 fact, his mailing address was Post Office Box 1. I  
7 said, "I what?" He said, "Just one. I was there when  
8 they built the post office."

9 So Chuck started accepting family law cases  
10 from Community Legal Services, and he excelled quickly  
11 in his knowledge and in how many clients just loved  
12 Chuck.

13 And eventually, he started working in our  
14 self-represented clinic here in the courthouse, but one  
15 of the challenges of managing Chuck was that Chuck would  
16 get behind. There was always a long waiting line.

17 And we'd always tell him, "Chuck, you have  
18 to hurry up. You know, you need to keep moving along."  
19 He said, "But they have more questions, and I want to  
20 answer everybody's questions."

21 Because he brought this attitude of being a  
22 postman with him to this job where he said, "Everyone  
23 needs to tell me their story, and I am willing to sit  
24 and listen to everything they have to say. I'll stay  
25 late. I'll give them my phone number. They can even

1 call me at home if they want to." But it was important  
2 to listen to everything they had to say.

3 But by early 2011, Chuck decided, he came to  
4 me, he said, "Neal, I'm going to leave Community Legal  
5 Services. I'm going out there, and I'm going to earn my  
6 fortune in private practice."

7 Well, Chuck continued to collect clients  
8 from everywhere. It was his great heart, his love of  
9 people that brought people to him, that clients brought  
10 their neighbors and their friends. But the problem with  
11 having a great heart like this is that Chuck wasn't very  
12 good at collecting fees. And a couple years later, he  
13 was back looking for his job again in the self-help  
14 clinic.

15 One of the delights of having Chuck on staff  
16 was that he would stop once a week at our Greenbelt  
17 office. And he came into the office late in the  
18 afternoon when it was real quiet, and he said, "Bueno,  
19 bueno, everything is great." And everybody would stop  
20 work just to get up to talk to Chuck because he had all  
21 these great stories about his clients, and he always  
22 stopped to talk about his family.

23 His last stop in the office was always in my  
24 office. And you know, we talked about business for a  
25 few moments, but eventually, it was about his son, Matt,

1 and his daughter Jenny and about Luella, about his love  
2 of family.

3                   And eventually, the conversation turned  
4 around to faith and about our church. I'm a deacon in  
5 the Catholic church. And Chuck was very active in  
6 St. George's Episcopal Church. And so we compared the  
7 scripture readings, what was going on that week, what my  
8 homily was going to be about, what our faith meant to us  
9 and about how it impacted the people we served and the  
10 care for those people.

11                  Chuck kept promising, he said, "One of these  
12 weeks, on a Wednesday night, I'm going to take my Bible  
13 study class over and meet yours, and we'll compare notes  
14 and see who's right."

15                  Well, our schedules never quite matched up.  
16 Well, since last January, almost a year now, but I can  
17 still, late in the afternoon, wait for that door to  
18 open, and I can still hear Chuck's voice, "Bueno,  
19 bueno." Everything is great.

20                  Chuck just loved his clients. He loved his  
21 family. He loved his church. And Chuck was always a  
22 delight to be around. Chuck liked to pretend that he  
23 could speak Spanish, and he always said, "Well, you  
24 know, between my bad Spanish and the client's poor  
25 English, I think we understand each other very clearly."

1                   Somehow, he would always muddle through, but  
2 in the end, the client would call up, it was never  
3 Mr. Ashurst or Attorney Ashurst, it was always, "We want  
4 Chuck. We want to talk to Chuck," because he would sit,  
5 and he would listen. He would listen to their story,  
6 and then he would go to work for them.

7                   And so today, when I go back to the office,  
8 I'll sit, and I'll listen, because I know somewhere  
9 Chuck is saying, "Bueno, bueno." Everything is good.  
10 Thank you.

11                   (Applause in the audience.)

12                   JUDGE MISSOURI: We now have a presentation  
13 for John A. Buchanan by the Honorable James P. Salmon.

14                   (The Honorable James P. Salmon approaches.)

15                   JUDGE SALMON: Thank you, Judge Missouri.

16                   Judge Nichols, congratulations on your new  
17 but brief position.

18                   Judge Krauser, Peter Krauser, I always have  
19 to pay respect to him, because he's the one that sends  
20 me my work, and other judges and fellow members of the  
21 Bar.

22                   I was very honored to be able to speak for  
23 John Buchanan. He was a lawyer for 51 years. He was  
24 very active in the Bar Association for a long time. He  
25 was the Chairman of the Judicial Selections Committee.

1                   But I really want to speak more about John  
2 the man. I visited him on September 17th. It was just  
3 six days before he died, and so he was riddled with  
4 cancer at the time and on pain medications, but he was  
5 like, Pat, as you said about Mel Bergman, he knew all  
6 about law and was talking about cases and stuff like  
7 that and other things.

8 I was thinking, boy, if I was in his  
9 condition, that would be the last thing I'd be talking  
10 about, but he was like that. He was talking about  
11 everybody at the Bar. He had a very poor diagnosis, of  
12 course, and he knew he was dying, but that was what he  
13 was interested in.

14 I met John when we were all law clerks  
15 together in 1965. All the judges, which there were five  
16 circuit court judges then, each had a law clerk. And  
17 that was the first year they ever had law clerks.

25 All the circuit court law clerks had one

1       thing in common, they didn't have an office, so they all  
2       had to go down to the law library, and that's where they  
3       worked out of. And I did have an office, but I still  
4       associated with them. Anyway, I became very good  
5       friends with John. And even back in 1965 and '66, he  
6       was always extremely interested in law, and he would  
7       read legal biographies and so forth.

8                   And he worked for just a wonderful judge,  
9       Judge Ralph Powers, whose son is here in the audience.  
10      Judge Powers was really great. John learned a lot from  
11     him, to be very efficient. And just like Judge Powers,  
12     John never had anything on his desk at the end of the  
13     day. And he learned that, and I think Judge Powers  
14     thought of John since he was, first of all, almost like  
15     a son, but it didn't do John any good once he went out  
16     and practiced because Judge Powers was a very hard man  
17     as a judge, and he would never give anybody a  
18     continuance.

19                   So when John had been practicing two years,  
20     he got notice of this case, was set for February 27,  
21     1968, which was when his son Barney was expected to be  
22     born. So John went to his friend, Judge Powers, and  
23     said, "I've never asked for a continuance before, but I  
24     would like to have a continuance because this is Terry,  
25     my wife's due date."

1                   And Judge Powers, unlike most times, he  
2 wouldn't even think about it, would just deny the  
3 continuance, but this time, he did think about it. And  
4 he said, "John, this is Terry's first child, right?"  
5 John said, "Yes." He said, "Well, I found that usually  
6 the first child is born a little late."

7                   So times were hard back then, he couldn't  
8 get a continuance for anything, but John was a really  
9 experienced trial lawyer. He was with Beatty & McNamee  
10 for two years after he was a law clerk, and then he  
11 worked with Sasscer, Clagett, Channing and Bucher, and  
12 he was there for at least 25 years.

13                  And I bet he had probably 400 jury trials  
14 because he was really a busy lawyer. He had a lot of  
15 cases, mostly doing insurance defense work, and some  
16 appellate work, but not too much, but mostly trial work,  
17 and in the southern Maryland Counties as well as Prince  
18 George's. And he was really a great lawyer.

19                  And I think judges liked him and juries  
20 especially because he was very succinct, and there was  
21 no long closing arguments or opening statements. He got  
22 right to the point. He had a very winning personality,  
23 and he had success because the jurors that would try his  
24 cases liked him.

25                  And one thing I want to really stress about

1 John, he wasn't the type of lawyer that was filing  
2 motions to compel discovery or any of that stuff. He  
3 got right to the point. He would just, if somebody owed  
4 him interrogatory answers, he would say like, "Please  
5 thicken my file, my answer, unless they were two months  
6 overdue, or something like that, but he wouldn't nag  
7 people with a bunch of unnecessary motions or anything.

8                   And as I think for the 22 years that I was  
9 with him at the law firm, I think that just about every  
10 opponent, even though sometimes the cases were highly  
11 contested, they always came out as a friend. He didn't  
12 make enemies.

13                   And he did a very good job for his clients  
14 and was what you'd want in the way of lawyering. And I  
15 think he was recognized as that when they made him  
16 Chairman of the Judicial Selections Committee. He was  
17 very well thought of as far as a lawyer.

18                   Also, like, you know, Bergman, he was  
19 extremely knowledgeable about a whole bunch of things  
20 that had nothing to do with law, like hockey, football,  
21 history and so forth.

22                   Just about two or three months before he  
23 died, he gave a talk to the Court for southern Maryland,  
24 and he talked about the Rosenberg trial. He had  
25 tremendous knowledge of stuff like that. And so he was

1 a great friend to all of us.

2                   And then one thing, one thing that young  
3 lawyers could remember about John, when we were  
4 brand-new lawyers, he always said that when he retired,  
5 he would like to be a bailiff. So he said, "You just  
6 sit around, and you just listen to law." And that's  
7 what he liked. So if you set your goals low enough,  
8 you'll make them so.

9                   After he retired, he was a bailiff. He was  
10 over in Anne Arundel County, and he was a bailiff over  
11 there until I think about two months before he died.  
12 But Sam Serio told me that he was over there, in Anne  
13 Arundel County, and I'm glad he was over there because  
14 there was a judge who Sam didn't think was very smart.

15                   Anyway, Sam said, "And John was the  
16 bailiff." And he said, "This is one of the few  
17 situations where the bailiff is a lot smarter than the  
18 judge is." I thought, that could be true. Naturally, I  
19 wouldn't mention any name.

20                   He was a member of the Maryland Bar  
21 Association. He was a member of the Maryland Bar  
22 Association for 51 years. And I think that except for  
23 about two years, he went to every summer meeting of the  
24 Bar Association. I would always meet with him down  
25 there.

1                   He was a truly a good lawyer and a skilled  
2 lawyer and a friend to many people here in the Bar  
3 Association. And just in conclusion, he will be greatly  
4 missed by many people that are here today and especially  
5 by me. Thank you.

6                   (APPLAUSE IN THE AUDIENCE.)

7                   JUDGE MISSOURI: Thank you, Judge Salmon.

8                   Now we have the pleasure of introducing the  
9 Honorable Maureen Lamasney on behalf of Edward P. "Ned"  
10 Camus.

11                   (The Honorable Maureen M. Lamasney  
12 approaches.)

13                   JUDGE LAMASNEY: Chief Judge Nichols, Judge  
14 Adams, Judge Hotten, Judge Krauser, colleagues from  
15 Circuit Court, District Court, to Darlene, Cindy, to the  
16 friends and family of Ned, and to the families of all  
17 the persons we honor today, Edward Poland Camus, known  
18 to all of us as Ned, was born in Santiago, Chile on  
19 March 26, 1932, the son of Anna Loretta Poland of Troy,  
20 New York and Florencio Eduardo Camus, a Chilean-born  
21 naturalized U.S. citizen.

22                   While the family was living in Chile, Ned's  
23 father was killed in a plane crash in the High Andes  
24 when Ned was only four months old.

25                   The wreckage was found two years later by a

1 shepherd who was taking sheep to high pasture. Ned's  
2 mother then went to work for the U.S. Foreign Service.  
3 Her assignments took Loretta, Ned, and his sister  
4 Shirley to Mexico City, to Panama, to Haiti and other  
5 foreign countries.

6                   While in Mexico City, the children were  
7 cared for during the day by Mrs. Brennan who instilled  
8 in the children a deep Christian faith and who taught  
9 that a work ethic matters, frugality and other life  
10 skills. Always the independent child, Ned talked of  
11 taking himself to the bull fights and renting horses for  
12 his sister and himself to ride.

13                  Sadly, Anna Loretta died of a brain  
14 hemorrhage when Ned was 12 years old. Money was sent to  
15 Mexico City from relatives in the U.S., and the young  
16 children were charged with the task of disposing of  
17 their apartment and its contents and getting themselves  
18 to the United States. Their maternal aunt took the  
19 children to live with her in Montgomery County where  
20 they remained until adulthood. Ned once remarked that  
21 he had raised himself.

22                  Ned attended various Catholic and military  
23 schools during his formative years and graduated from  
24 Montgomery Blair High School in Montgomery County. He  
25 began working very early in life and worked his way

1 through college at the University of Maryland and the  
2 George Washington University School of Law.

3 Ned had a beautiful singing voice, a tenor,  
4 and sang at weddings and funerals to help pay his  
5 tuition. He loved classical music, especially Luciano  
6 Pavarotti.

7 Later, he worked as a claims adjuster and  
8 then as a regional claims manager for State Farm  
9 Insurance, a position which became helpful later when he  
10 began representing plaintiffs. He once said that that  
11 experience told him where all their bones were buried.

12 After passing the bar, Ned practiced law for  
13 a brief period of time with Attorney Ted Miazga in  
14 Riverdale before opening his solo practice. He served  
15 as Deputy State's Attorney under Bud Marshall for  
16 several years. From 1972 until 1978, Ned served as the  
17 Fifth District Public Defender for that newly created  
18 office.

19 When he retired, waiting for office  
20 furniture, telephones and typewriters to arrive from  
21 Baltimore, Ned, ever the renegade, ordered the  
22 equipment, had it in place and sent Baltimore the bill,  
23 a move which did not endear him to the leadership. Like  
24 the good Catholic he was, he felt it was easier to get  
25 forgiveness than it was to get permission.

1                   Ned was an exemplary trial attorney, a  
2 talent which quickly gave him recognition and admiration  
3 and the respect of lawyers and judges alike. Senior  
4 lawyers sent their young associates to court to watch  
5 Ned try cases. He had an uncanny ability to read people  
6 and to quickly reduce situations and legal entanglements  
7 to their simplest elements. With his impeccable  
8 preparation, his soft-sell approach, his direct gaze and  
9 carefully measured speech, many a well coached and  
10 confident witness fell under the spell of his masterful  
11 cross-examination and gave it all up before they even  
12 knew what was happening.

13                   Ned's reputation for success with trial  
14 boards led many police officers and other public  
15 officials to seek his representation. Lawyers with  
16 complex cases came to Ned for help. They were never  
17 turned away. He was always a willing tutor.

18                   Word got around that the man to go to for  
19 help was the Chilean Warlock, as he was affectionately  
20 known in some circles, the man who could get it done.

21                   We recently heard a story told by one of  
22 those tall, handsome lawyers concerning his first  
23 encounter with Ned in the courtroom. He came in, looked  
24 at Ned and thought to himself, a little, short guy, easy  
25 day. His description of what happened next goes as

1 follows: The next thing he knew, he had been thoroughly  
2 trounced. Ned was shaking his hand, smiling a foxy,  
3 little grin and saying, "You want to go get a beer?"  
4 The lawyer went. As he said, just had to love the guy.

5 Ned demanded excellence in himself and  
6 expected it in others. His employees were required to  
7 pursue excellence in every area of the law. He  
8 supported, encouraged and schooled his attorneys in  
9 matters of ethics and trial strategy. We always felt,  
10 and I was an assistant public defender, he always had  
11 our backs. Under his leadership, the tone and  
12 philosophy of excellence and just plain grit formed the  
13 Public Defender's Office into one of the best criminal  
14 defense firms in the State.

15 Ned was a generous man who sponsored several  
16 exchange students, helped other students with their  
17 tuition and sometimes gave them jobs when he didn't  
18 really need their services. He quietly and anonymously  
19 gave out food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas.  
20 Ned loved people and get-togethers. His office  
21 atmosphere was one of great congeniality. There was  
22 always a small assortment of liquid libation in his desk  
23 drawer ready to celebrate wins, suit losses or just  
24 because it was Friday afternoon.

25 One snowy day, he dismissed all the

1 nonessential employees early and prepared a concoction  
2 of warm wine and spices he called glue vine for those  
3 who had to stay. The trouble was, he forgot to turn off  
4 the coffee pot when he left the next morning, and he had  
5 to buy a new one because that purple sludge at the  
6 bottom of the pot was there to stay. I think Judge  
7 Salmon was there for that.

8 Ned was once called into one of the judges'  
9 chambers to hear a complaint that one of his female  
10 attorneys was wearing pants into his courtroom,  
11 apparently some new fad that he was not going to  
12 tolerate. He told Ned to tell the attorney to cease and  
13 desist with the pants. Ned just grinned and told him,  
14 "I'm not going to tell her. You tell her."

15 Some years back, there was a big push to get  
16 a federal court for the Southern District, a move hotly  
17 opposed by the only then existing federal court in  
18 Baltimore. When the new court branch was opened in  
19 Greenbelt, some of the federal court judges attended the  
20 ceremony looking like they were afraid that Prince  
21 George's County cooties might jump upon their shoes.  
22 Ned, one of the speakers, smiled and welcomed them  
23 warmly and then said, "If you lived here, you would be  
24 home now." Every one in the room broke into laughter,  
25 including the federal judges.

1 Ned served as County Bar President and on  
2 the executive board of that organization for over 20  
3 years. He chaired its first committee on civility for  
4 judges and lawyers and was one of the first founders of  
5 the Law Foundation.

6 He served on the Judicial Selections  
7 Committee, the Maryland State Board of Governors. He  
8 was a member of the American Bar Association, and he was  
9 inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial  
10 Lawyers.

11 Ned retired from his law practice in 1999,  
12 and he and Darlene moved to the southwest, an area he  
13 had come to love while working a summer job as a park  
14 ranger at El Morro National Monument in New Mexico.  
15 They enjoyed 15 happy and adventurous years there in  
16 their home overlooking the Southern Rockies.

17 Sadly, Ned developed serious health problems  
18 and then returned to Montgomery County in late 2013,  
19 where Ned remained in nursing care until his death on  
20 September 2, 2016.

21 We figure he is somewhere flying his yellow  
22 Cessna airplane around or running his boat on some  
23 smooth lake or more probably arguing loopholes in the  
24 Ten Commandments on behalf of someone who is having  
25 trouble getting into heaven.

1 Ned loved his wife Darlene. He loved his  
2 children. He loved his friends. He loved the practice  
3 of law. His contributions to the Bar and to the legal  
4 profession will live on. The man himself is sorely  
5 missed and will be fondly remembered as a special and  
6 much loved colleague.

7 (Applause in the audience.)

8 JUDGE MISSOURI: Mr. Farmer.

9 (Mr. James E. Farmer approaches.)

10 MR. FARMER: Thank you.

11 Chief Judge, Honorable Judges, associates  
12 and friends, my name is James E. Farmer. For those who  
13 don't know me, my father's name was James F. Farmer. I  
14 know that was confusing for a very long time. It won't  
15 be anymore. But at this point in time, I really believe  
16 it's an honor and a privilege to be able to say a few  
17 words about my father. Some of you may know some of  
18 these things, but there are many things that you do not  
19 know.

20 My dad started his career nearly 40 years  
21 ago with Joseph Vallario who, of course, many of you  
22 know, but this was well into his 30s. So he had a life  
23 well before that that many of you are very unaware of.  
24 He was born and raised in southeast D.C., in Anacostia,  
25 and he was very, very proud of that. He and his brother

1 were raised by his struggling single mother after his  
2 father left them at a very, very early age.

3 I could normally never say that out loud  
4 because he would never want me to tell anybody, but he  
5 can no longer yell at me for doing things, so I feel  
6 that it's appropriate now. And before he became a  
7 lawyer, he certainly caused some trouble along the way.  
8 He really fought and clawed his way to where he was when  
9 he passed away.

10 He retired from the Air Force. Twenty years  
11 of service. He started by becoming a recruiter for the  
12 Air National Guard. He retired from the Air Force and  
13 within months of becoming a recruiter for the Air  
14 National Guard, he was a top recruiter in the entire  
15 country. That just goes to show how aggressive and  
16 assertive this man was. He would not take no for an  
17 answer.

18 The first thing I could think of when I  
19 started working with him, which is before I went to law  
20 school and became a lawyer, was his vibrant personality.  
21 Whether it was in Upper Marlboro, whether it was in  
22 Leonardtown or whether it was where his office is  
23 located in Waldorf, in La Plata, he would know  
24 everybody. He walked in, he'd shake hands and see  
25 everybody, and I would think, wow, that's really cool.

1                   And I think it's fair to say, for a man like  
2 him, many, many, people loved him, but there are a lot  
3 of people who maybe had a different opinion. Whether  
4 you were a State's Attorney that he was screaming at in  
5 open court, or a police officer he may have been  
6 screaming at in open court for the same reasons or an  
7 insurance adjuster that he was screaming at from his  
8 desk, he had absolutely no problem with being  
9 confrontational. He had no problem certainly yelling at  
10 myself and my good friend Jonathan Haskell, who is here  
11 today, when we were in high school, whether that was a  
12 Friday night or a Saturday morning. Mr. Haskell  
13 practices in this area.

14                   But that was really the foundation of his  
15 practice and really his entire life. He said what he  
16 meant, he meant what he said, and he said what he felt,  
17 and he felt it strongly.

18                   He always talked on behalf of his client.  
19 If he disagreed, he would never back down. Whether it  
20 was a fellow attorney, a judge or a delegate, he would  
21 fight for whatever his position was. And his positions  
22 were always what was in the best interest of his client.

23                   If you knew him well, you also knew when he  
24 wasn't fighting for his clients, he was fighting for  
25 conservation. And in large part quail. This little

1      bird was very, very important to him. He was an avid  
2      bird hunter. He was an avid conservationist. And he  
3      loved dogs.

4                    He actually won the Conservation of the Year  
5      Award for Maryland, the Department of Natural Resources,  
6      two times which, I believe, is unprecedented in this  
7      state.

8                    Whether it was the Conservation Reserve  
9      Enhancement Program, CREP, or him literally doing  
10     physical, manual labor creating a wildlife habitat, on  
11     his own farm in southern Maryland, and by the way, he  
12     continued to do this even after multiple surgeries. The  
13     doctor said, "What are you doing, it's so stupid." He  
14     said, "I don't care, I'm going to do this until the day  
15     that I die."

16                   That assertive, not taking no for an answer  
17     personality, he also used that for fundraising efforts  
18     for wildlife conservation. And you can read here, and  
19     you can read elsewhere, there are a lot of those  
20     fundraisers that he did, and I can tell you, they were  
21     always successful.

22                   Since his passing in August, I've had judges  
23     and attorneys who read up on him in the Washington Post,  
24     the write-up that was there, they had no clue that he  
25     was more than just a really aggressive courtroom

1 attorney. But he fought as hard as he did in the  
2 courtroom just as hard as he fought for quail. He  
3 fought as hard in the courtroom just as hard as he  
4 fought to recruit people to serve for our country, and  
5 he was very good at it.

6 He had a lot of health ailments that caught  
7 up to him, heart problems, kidney problems, colon  
8 problems, brain problems. Ultimately, he had a stroke,  
9 and then he had another stroke. And, of course, despite  
10 the fact that my mother was an amazing cook, she  
11 encouraged him to be extremely healthy, to get all of  
12 his vitamins and minerals, my father still, when my mom  
13 wasn't looking, never stopped eating fast food and  
14 donuts all the time. But I think the more acute issues  
15 that really broke the camel's back in terms of my  
16 father's health were two things, and I think he'd want  
17 me to explain both of those.

18 Number one, it was a ten-day jury trial,  
19 almost exactly a year ago, as a matter of fact. He was  
20 the lead counsel. I will tell you, he would want  
21 everyone here to know that he won. In fact, when I was  
22 talking to a nurse when he was getting meningitis, long  
23 story, but he couldn't do much of anything except for he  
24 could barely move. He could barely move his head, and  
25 he could move his eyes a little bit.

1                   And he said, "Well, was there anything  
2 really stressful?" And of course, I'm laughing. I'm  
3 thinking about, you know, he was an attorney, he's been  
4 stressed for the last 40 years, but in particular, just  
5 a couple of weeks ago, he had a really long trial.  
6 During the middle of the day, he would go out and sleep  
7 in the car during lunch, but he'd still go in and fight.  
8 In any event, I said, "Oh, and he would want me to tell  
9 you that he won." And he looked at her (demonstrating).

10                  And I should also shout out to Melvin Allen  
11 who is here who was the associate who deserves praise,  
12 who was an associate on that case a year ago. Okay.  
13 That was number one.

14                  And number two, as far as the acute issues  
15 were, him on the tractor. This is literally after many  
16 of these health issues. Ninety-degree heat, my father  
17 would be out on the tractor, hop off with a mattock,  
18 chopping weeds and doing things for wildlife habitat.

19                  And again, this is something that he  
20 absolutely never should have been doing, but this is  
21 exactly how he would have wanted it. He would not have  
22 wanted to sit there with his feet up, you know, on a  
23 boat riding around into the sunset. He wanted to work.  
24 He wanted to work for not only himself and his clients,  
25 but his family. And, of course, the environmental

1 things that I told you about.

2 I also wanted to make sure to mention the  
3 family that he created and left behind. He really was a  
4 wonderful father, I cannot emphasize that enough, and a  
5 loving grandfather. His beautiful wife, Helen, my  
6 mother is here, his wonderful daughter, my sister,  
7 Melissa is here, my brother-in-law, John is here, and he  
8 left behind his two granddaughters, Eleni and Alexis.

9 And he left one other precious baby of his  
10 with me, that's the law office. I am very busy taking  
11 care of that right now so maybe the other children will  
12 come later. I'm sorry, Mom. And I'd like to say, the  
13 last couple of nights, I've been working pretty late.  
14 We have a pretty large murder trial coming up in Charles  
15 County. Mr. Allen is working on that as well.

16 But being there in the office by myself, I  
17 never quite feel by myself. We have a little memorial  
18 of sorts in the conference room with his portrait  
19 hanging there, and I know he's always there with me.  
20 He's pushing me aggressively, as he's always been, and  
21 he'll be doing that for the rest of my career.

22 On behalf of our family, thanks to the  
23 Prince George's County Bar Association, judges, family  
24 and friends. Thank you.

25 (Applause in the audience.)

1 JUDGE MISSOURI: The Honorable Vincent J.  
2 Femia on behalf of John J. Garrity.

3 (The Honorable Vincent J. Femia approaches.)

4 JUDGE FEMIA: Chief Judge Nichols, my  
5 colleagues of bench and bar, ladies and gentlemen,  
6 families and friends, and everybody back there. Good.

7 I want to say hello and introduce especially  
8 a gentleman who is amongst us because he's the only  
9 lawyer in the room older than I am. Gus Sasscer is with  
10 us, an esteemed gentleman of the Bar for many, many  
11 years. Thanks for being here.

12 I also want to note the presence of somebody  
13 else whose husband is no longer with us who was a very  
14 dear friend and member of our bench, Ms. Jan Taylor is  
15 here. Judge James Taylor's wife. Thank you.

16 (Applause in the audience.)

17 JUDGE FEMIA: I'm here to say a few words  
18 about Jack Garrity. And they're going to be a few words  
19 because there are a lot of folks being memorialized. So  
20 it's going to be short and sweet.

21                   If you want to know about Jack's rise from a  
22 log cabin in the northern regions of Vermont, where he  
23 was required at a young age to press grapes with his  
24 bare feet in the winter, to extract the syrup therefrom,  
25 well, at least that's what I thought he was doing, and

1 his rise up through and to the White House, which he  
2 once visited, looking at the program provided by the  
3 Prince George's Bar, it's in very small print, but there  
4 was a lot of Jack to know about. What I am going to do  
5 is tell you, give you, my impressions of Jack.

6 I first met Jack when he came onboard as a  
7 new hire in the State's Attorney's Office when I was a  
8 deputy, and he came on with Bud. And the thing we  
9 noticed about Jack was, he was a worker. I mean a  
10 nose-to-the-grindstone dude.

11 You know, the State's Attorney's Office,  
12 it's a rumor, in those days may have been given somewhat  
13 to frivolity. People climbing walls dressed as Spider  
14 man. I mention no names, Dave. It was even a rumor  
15 that some members of that office began to play cards in  
16 the conference room with local members or members of the  
17 local constabulary, rumors, but you know, that's the way  
18 it is in a trial office, an office full of trial  
19 lawyers.

20 Trial lawyers are high-tension people. And  
21 when they're not busy engaged in trying cases, they're  
22 goofy, but not Jack. Jack worked constantly. You know,  
23 each of us was assigned five to eight cases a week,  
24 depending on the severity of the cases we got.

25 Well, the way we did it, the way most of us

1 did it is, you worked your murders, you worked your  
2 rapes, you worked your robberies and burglaries to  
3 death, but when it came to gambling, shooting craps,  
4 trespass, marijuana, you know, it's hard to be excited  
5 about things like that. That was the kind of case, you  
6 just call it, say, "You arrested this man?" "Yes."  
7 "Why?" "Tell the judge why."

8 Not Jack. He would work trespass just as  
9 hard as he worked burglary. He was a worker. And  
10 that's why we were so proud and glad for him when he  
11 went off to the Attorney General's Office because that  
12 was Jack's forte. That was a perfect place for Jack.  
13 He joined the Irish Mafia, Burch, Murphy, Sweeney, and  
14 was well known for his work ethic in that office. And  
15 I'm sure if you question his colleagues on the Court of  
16 Special Appeals, you'll find out, that is exactly how he  
17 operated on the Court of Special Appeals. He was a  
18 working man. First and foremost, he was a working man.

19 Another thing that most people don't realize  
20 about Jack, we have a group that meets every Monday, a  
21 very morphous group of old goats, we sit around and tell  
22 lies about how great we were; Steve, Darlene, my wife,  
23 certain chief judges amongst us. Who else? Who else?  
24 Who have I forgotten? But anyway, we meet every Monday,  
25 and Jack was a member of this. And so was Mel. And

1       Jack had this very wry sense, Irish sense of humor. He  
2       saw humor in everything, but the way he expressed  
3       himself in this sardonic, sardonic memory, the way he  
4       expressed himself, it was quintessential.

5                   And I'll give you just an example of it.  
6       The last example I know. When Jack was in the hospital  
7       for the last time, those of you who know Jack know that  
8       for many years, at least eight years that I'm aware of,  
9       experts with medical degrees tried to kill him. I mean,  
10       they did things to him in the hospital, and it was  
11       amazing. I used to tell him, "Look, I'm renting you out  
12       to the University of Maryland Medical School as a living  
13       medical book," because everything has happened to this  
14       man.

15                  And through it all, he smiled and bore up.  
16       Well, the last time he was in the hospital, he had all  
17       these tubes running out of him, he couldn't speak, but  
18       that didn't keep Jack from communicating. He had a  
19       pencil, and he had a piece of paper, and write, write,  
20       write, write, write, write, write, write.

21                  So Ritchie Palumbo and myself, Ritchie is a  
22       very, very dear, close friend of Jack's, loved the man.  
23       So Ritchie and I told Ann, we're going to go see Jack,  
24       but he's in CCU. You know, only family. Don't worry  
25       about that, we're going to tell them we're lawyers with

1 a will. They won't come near us.

2 You know, if you're a lawyer with a will,  
3 you go to the hospital, you could die in the atrium,  
4 they won't touch you, they won't even look at you. They  
5 want nothing to do with lawyers in the hospital. So  
6 it's not a problem. We'll go to the hospital, we'll  
7 tell them we're lawyers.

8 Jack passed away. We never got a chance to  
9 go there, I'm sorry. But after he passed away, Ann told  
10 us that one of his last notes was, "Tell Vince and  
11 Ritchie, I don't trust them. I'm waiting for my  
12 attorney, Jack Johnson, to be available." It was Jack.  
13 I mean, that's the way Jack was.

14 But the thing I'm going to remember longest  
15 about Jack is something I've never told anybody. As I  
16 told you, we met on Mondays for lunch. One Monday, it  
17 was January 10, 2011. Jack said, "We got to go see  
18 Bud." And I said, "Yeah, we've got to go see Bud." I  
19 told him I'd meet him tomorrow, which was Tuesday, the  
20 11th, to go see Bud.

21 I drove. We went to the nursing home in  
22 Crownsville where Bud was. We walked in, the lady at  
23 the desk said, "Oh, Mr. Marshall's not here. He was  
24 taken to Anne Arundel Hospital in an ambulance this  
25 morning."

1                   So we jumped in the car. The hospital is  
2 about 15 minutes away, or 10 if I'm driving, and I was.  
3 We went to the hospital, we got to the emergency room,  
4 and Bud was laying there on a gurney, on his back, with  
5 his mouth agape, his lips all cracked, his tongue. Jack  
6 said, "He's thirsty." He was really in agony. Hey, I'm  
7 a lawyer, what do I know? I don't know what the hell to  
8 do, I'm just standing. I don't know want to do. I'm at  
9 a loss.

10                  You know, Jack, he was a corpsman in the  
11 Navy. I didn't know that. Man, he starts opening and  
12 slamming drawers. He got out this stick with a sponge  
13 on it, and he ran over, and he got a cup of water, and  
14 he stood there for 15, 20 minutes wiping Bud's lips and  
15 Bud sucking on that. It's one of the most poignant  
16 scenes I've ever seen. And remember, you know, we're  
17 lawyers, we're tough. We don't have soft sides, but  
18 I'll tell you, I saw compassion in a man that day. I  
19 couldn't believe it.

20                  Let me tell you, I'm going to miss my  
21 friend. We all are going to miss Jack Garrity. Thanks  
22 for the opportunity.

23                  (Applause in the audience.)

24                  JUDGE MISSOURI: Now it's time for the  
25 Honorable Richard H. Sothoron.

3 JUDGE SOTHORON: Chief Judge Nichols. I  
4 never thought I'd say that. And your hair looks  
5 marvelous. To my colleagues, retired judges, most  
6 importantly, family members, I am honored to speak on  
7 behalf of Lee Haislip, but if I could digress for a  
8 second, having known many of the honorees here today  
9 that we are honoring, Christopher, your dad was a  
10 wonderful guy. And Judge Spellbring reminded me of a  
11 story that when he was a prosecutor back in the early  
12 '70s, and your dad was a defense attorney, Judge  
13 Waldron, voice in the past was a judge, and your  
14 father's client wasn't there. And Judge Waldron said,  
15 "Well, Mr. Aragona, why don't you go pick up the  
16 defendant?" To which your father responded, "Judge, I  
17 might be big, but I'm not a bus."

18                           And, of course, my friend Mel Bergman, his  
19 former law partner early on was Joe Tyrell, both of whom  
20 are very large men, and they billed themselves as the  
21 largest law firm in Prince George's County. That's  
22 their sense of humor.

23 I am honored to speak on behalf of my  
24 friend, Lee Haislip. As you can see from the program,  
25 Jim Flynn was supposed to speak. He couldn't be here

1 today. He's now living in Pennsylvania, and it's kind  
2 of deferred from Judge Ahalt to myself. And Judge  
3 Ahalt, who was a dear friend of his, in fact, Judge  
4 Ahalt employed Lee's daughter, Kathleen, as his law  
5 clerk.

6 Present on behalf of his family today is his  
7 son Patrick, his daughter-in-law, Toni Lee, and Lee's  
8 longtime secretary, Anna Boris and her husband came from  
9 Florida. Thank you for being here.

10 You can read from the program all about Lee  
11 Haislip, so I'm not going to go there, you're going to  
12 have to, but let me tell you what's not in the program.  
13 Lee Haislip helped people. He took a great deal of  
14 pride being a lawyer, being a successful Realtor, a  
15 banker, but beyond all that, what he never waved the  
16 flag to tell people is that he would endeavor to help  
17 young lawyers. I'm one of them. He took a great deal  
18 of pride realizing that somebody helped him as he came  
19 along, and he thought it was his duty to do the same.

20 One of his mentors was a gentleman named  
21 Buck Doyle who I didn't know, but Jim Flynn told me  
22 about this person. And Buck Doyle was a pilot with the  
23 Flying Tigers, General Chennault's Flying Tigers, World  
24 War II and that was one of Lee's mentors. And if Jim  
25 Flynn were here today, he'd tell you that Lee learned

1 from Buck Doyle that it's a life lesson to reach in and  
2 help others who need help and not ask for anything in  
3 return.

4                   Jim Flynn will tell you that Lee Haislip  
5 saved his life. And what he meant by that was that Lee  
6 reached out to Jim Flynn when Jim had a drinking  
7 problem, probably 40 years ago, and became his sponsor.  
8 And not only did he help Jim Flynn, but those of you who  
9 are familiar with the Jude House in Charles County which  
10 is a very fine drug/alcohol residential treatment  
11 center, it has serviced many, many people throughout the  
12 entire southern Maryland, Jim Flynn became the executive  
13 director of that very facility.

14                   And it's because of Lee Haislip that Jim  
15 Flynn found another livelihood and in that sense, saved  
16 the lives of many, many people who have appeared before  
17 the various judges of Prince George's, southern  
18 Maryland, St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert County,  
19 directly attributable to Lee Haislip.

20                   Lee Haislip, besides being a wonderful  
21 lawyer, was probably one of the best dressed lawyers in  
22 the history of Prince George's County. He was  
23 absolutely color coordinated. And I found out from  
24 Patrick that when he passed away, they distributed his  
25 neck ties amongst his many grandchildren. So the

1       remnants of Lee Haislip's attire is still alive and well  
2       and prospering.

3                   Lee Haislip taught me, and I think everybody  
4       on this bench can attest to that, that somewhere,  
5       someplace, sometime before they became judges, somebody  
6       helped them. And everybody needed somebody like Lee  
7       Haislip in the world to sit down and give them some  
8       guidance as to what they should do if they aspire to  
9       move on to the bench or move up the leadership in the  
10      Bar Association.

11                  And he was that person to me. He never, for  
12      one second, hesitated to help me, give me words of  
13      wisdom, to be there when I wanted to run something by  
14      him, and all he asked in return was just the  
15      satisfaction of knowing that I appreciated what he did,  
16      and I, in turn, would take those life lessons and try to  
17      help somebody else.

18                  And there's not a day that goes by that I  
19      don't appreciate all that kindness, all that  
20      consideration, all that care, that he took time to talk  
21      to me and help so many other people.

22                  It's a shame, and I've said this many times  
23      when I've spoken in this capacity, that today we honor  
24      so many wonderful lawyers and yet, there's so many young  
25      lawyers or new members of the Bar who will never know

1 these people. They only know that through people like  
2 myself telling stories. True stories. And I will tell  
3 you that as long as I am alive, I will endeavor to tell  
4 you how wonderful these people are.

5 So I am pleased to be here on behalf of Lee  
6 Haislip, but more importantly, I am just the luckiest  
7 guy around to have known him, to have been a beneficiary  
8 of his friendship, his thoughtfulness, and I will  
9 endeavor to take that life lesson that he taught me to  
10 help others, to help other people. Thank you.

11 (Applause in the audience.)

12 JUDGE MISSOURI: Now on behalf of Irvin A.  
13 Lavine, our colleague, The Honorable Sherrie L. Krauser.

14 (The Honorable Sherrie L. Krauser  
15 approaches.)

16 JUDGE KRAUSER: Okay. For one last time, my  
17 father's name was Irvin A. Lavine, but it's okay. My  
18 father was a gentleman to his fingertips, so he would  
19 have been very annoyed with me for doing that. It is a  
20 great honor to be here to tell you a little bit about my  
21 dad and give him the tribute that he would never have  
22 allowed in his lifetime. So I want to thank the judges.  
23 Judge Nichols, I like the stripes, everyone who is here,  
24 and I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the  
25 families and friends of the other people who are

1 memorialized here today.

2 My parents knew so many of them, and I guess  
3 I'm sort of embarrassed by the riches I have had in  
4 sharing my life for all of these years with my dad and  
5 realizing that he lived longer than anyone else who has  
6 been recognized here today. Just to give you some  
7 perspective on that, Judge Femia noted that Mr. Sasscer,  
8 was the only one here who was older than him. Well, my  
9 parents always introduced Mr. Sasscer as young Gus,  
10 because they knew his father.

11 My dad was a gentleman to his fingertips.  
12 That didn't just mean that he was unfailingly polite and  
13 courteous, although he was. To him it meant that he  
14 never uttered a profanity. He was disgusted by  
15 obscenity, and he was appalled by the exhibition of  
16 either in front of a lady. Unfortunately, my mother  
17 didn't always measure up, but he tried with his  
18 daughters.

19 It meant that he treated everyone, man,  
20 woman, all races and religions with respect. It meant  
21 that he believed that everyone deserved not just equal  
22 opportunities for education and employment but whatever  
23 encouragement, guidance or assistance he could offer.

24 I found out after he died that he had  
25 supported the Southern Poverty Law Center for more than

1 40 years. I never knew. And he acted always in  
2 adherence to his own strong moral code. He was a modest  
3 man who never sought recognition for himself. He was an  
4 internationally renowned and acclaimed patent attorney  
5 with clients and colleagues all around the world. He  
6 and my mother shared a love of learning and exploring  
7 the world.

8 My father brought my mother a love of opera,  
9 music and art. She brought him a love of meeting new  
10 people and learning about their lives. Together, they  
11 traveled the globe; India, China, Australia, Israel,  
12 Brazil, Japan, Germany and England, and probably a few  
13 other places that I didn't even know about. In many of  
14 those places, they accepted invitations from my father's  
15 international colleagues and clients, but in all of them  
16 they laughed.

17 My dad was unusual as a lawyer because he  
18 was proficient in the math and science most lawyers  
19 desperately avoid. At 18, he had completed two years  
20 toward a degree in aeronautic engineering when in 1943,  
21 it was the middle of World War II, he volunteered for  
22 the Army. And to his eternal dismay, he became a  
23 professor for army pilots in training and never saw  
24 combat. So when they were doing all these things in the  
25 assisted living facilities and the places that they

1 lived when my parents reached their 80s, my dad would  
2 never acknowledge that he served in World War II because  
3 he didn't compare himself to those who had been combat  
4 veterans, even though without him, those pilots probably  
5 would have lost their lives not knowing how to handle  
6 their planes.

7                   Later, he helped each of his kids and many  
8 of his nieces and nephews through their required math  
9 and science courses. When we were older, we sometimes  
10 teased dad about his explanations. I am convinced that  
11 it was his stint in the Army teaching basic math and  
12 science to pilots in training that taught him to explain  
13 everything with great patience and in sometimes  
14 excruciating detail.

15                   For those of you who have known my parents,  
16 you know that my mother was always a spitfire.  
17 Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Garrity, I know you know that. I  
18 still find it incredible that at 22, he married my  
19 mother confident that they could build a life together  
20 based on mutual love and respect. After all, this was  
21 1948. My mother was a college junior, and she was  
22 determined not only to finish college, which a lot of  
23 women didn't do after they married at that time, but  
24 also to become a lawyer.

25                   That didn't happen for a few years. My

1 sister and I were born, but my father never forgot his  
2 promise to my mother. So with two young daughters at  
3 home, he not only paid for my mother's law school  
4 education, he took care of us so she could go to night  
5 school in Baltimore. And he didn't even blink that she  
6 was carpooling with three young guys. He supported  
7 every step of her political, legal and judicial career.  
8 And although he was extraordinarily proud of each of his  
9 children, he was especially proud that he was the only  
10 man who was the husband and father of women judges in  
11 Maryland.

12 Dad was a quiet leader in his own right. He  
13 didn't just help out a few community organizations, he  
14 was the person others sought to lead those organizations  
15 in their most difficult times. And I mentioned some of  
16 that in the bio sheet. He led the Board of Trustees of  
17 Prince George's Community College in an era that brought  
18 that college from its early years with one building, to  
19 development of a full-fledged campus and the hiring of  
20 its first professional chancellor. We received a lovely  
21 condolence note from the current chancellor remembering  
22 his contribution to the school, and that meant a lot.  
23 He also served as the president of several charitable  
24 organizations and was always the conscience reminding  
25 them of the need to serve everyone regardless of race or

1 religion.

2                   In sum, my father led a rich and fulfilling  
3 life for more than 90 years, and he and my mother had an  
4 amazing marriage for more than 67 years. And my mother  
5 was there at his side when he passed. So thank you,  
6 Judge Missouri, and everyone here for remembering my  
7 dad.

8                   (APPLAUSE IN THE AUDIENCE.)

9                   JUDGE MISSOURI: With apology to Judge Bess  
10 Lavine.

11                   We now call Ms. Nesse.

12                   (Ms. Janet M. Nesse approaches.)

13                   MS. NESSE: This is kind of a rough-speaking  
14 position for me, the last person to speak after hearing  
15 about all of these wonderful people, but I am  
16 privileged, Your Honors, colleagues, friends and family  
17 to speak about Judge Paul Mannes who died this year.

18                   He was a judge, at various times, the Chief  
19 Judge and Senior Judge of the United States Bankruptcy  
20 Court here in Greenbelt. The Court started in the scary  
21 Presidential Building down in Hyattsville, next to the  
22 ATF guys who occasionally actually shot their guns off  
23 during the day, that is true, and then it wandered over  
24 to Rockville, to a private building for awhile, and then  
25 when the Southern Division opened, we were fortunate to

1 return home here to Greenbelt.

2 He was a United States Bankruptcy Judge for  
3 34 years. At his death, he was the longest serving  
4 federal judicial officer in the District. And the most  
5 important thing to know about him is that he loved his  
6 job. He used to say, "I can't believe they pay me to do  
7 this. I should be paying them." He loved diving into  
8 the ins and outs of the Bankruptcy Code which is not a  
9 particularly entertaining thing for most of us to do,  
10 even those of us who are bankruptcy lawyers. And on the  
11 26th anniversary of the Bankruptcy Code in 2004, he  
12 wrote, "The Code is a national treasure. I have been  
13 proud to administer it to the best of my ability."

14 I was his first law clerk in 1981, and he  
15 was old and terrifying of course, he was about ten years  
16 younger than I am right now, but he was a little  
17 terrifying. He was also uniquely qualified for this  
18 job. He had never practiced a day of bankruptcy law in  
19 his life. He was a former president of the Montgomery  
20 County Bar Association, a highly respected practitioner  
21 in domestic relations and appellate work. He used to  
22 say he took the cases that people had already lost, so  
23 he couldn't do worse than they did. And he had  
24 represented the prior bankruptcy judge in several  
25 successive divorce proceedings.

1                   Nonetheless, he hit the books hard, and he  
2 learned everything really fast. By the end of his  
3 career, he had 155 published opinions spanning 500  
4 volumes of the Bankruptcy Reporter from BR16 to BR513.  
5 He taught me, all the successor law clerks and all of  
6 the folks that appeared before him a few things. First,  
7 you have to work really hard all the time. Mrs. Mannes  
8 knows, she's here today. He worked. He sat early. He  
9 sat late. Sometimes he sat on the day after  
10 Thanksgiving. And if he was really mad, he would make  
11 you come in on the occasional Saturday.

12                   And the next lesson that we all learned was  
13 you have to be responsible. Not just prepared but  
14 responsible. I remember kind of hiding behind my desk  
15 as a law clerk when the Judge would ask somebody a  
16 question or criticize some development in the case, and  
17 the lawyer led off with, Your Honor, this is really not  
18 my case, I'm just covering this for my partner. Oh, no.  
19 If you are here, it is yours, and you have to take  
20 ownership of it.

21                   But maybe the most important thing, Judge  
22 Mannes taught us all that being a lawyer could be fun.  
23 I had finished three years of law school, two Bar exams,  
24 a summer clerkship with a big New York law firm and  
25 thought the whole thing was about as much fun as a bad

1 root canal. He had convinced me and the other clerks,  
2 and to some extent the practitioners as well, the joys  
3 of the things you don't learn in law school.

4 How do you listen to the arguments, read the  
5 papers and figure out what is really going on, who are  
6 these people, and what's the secret that everybody knows  
7 except for you, and they're not telling the Court,  
8 exploring the puzzle of the legal issues and the  
9 personal drama. Even corporate cases were riveting and  
10 kind of like maybe a cross between daytime TV and  
11 Jeopardy. I learned that the bankruptcy practice was  
12 full of scoundrels, pitiful victims and other educating  
13 characters, and the enjoyments of the human condition is  
14 what makes practicing law really fun.

15 Many of the law clerks and the practitioners  
16 carry around a list of what we used to call the Mannes  
17 Maxim in their head. Some of them were addressed to me,  
18 because I'm the worst loser in the world. Even the  
19 great Ted Williams only went two for five and look how  
20 great he was. Okay. And the ever popular, "Sometimes,  
21 Ms. Nesse, getting what you want is the worst thing that  
22 can happen to you. Good luck with that." But there are  
23 two of these that really embody him as a judge.

24 The first one was, "They don't pay me to  
25 decide their rights, they just pay me to decide them."

1 He may have said that in the case, one particular case  
2 that I recall in which he was reversed twice, once when  
3 he ruled for the plaintiff, and once when he ruled for  
4 the defendant. He never got insulted when you took an  
5 appeal. He did what he thought was the right thing and  
6 never mind if you disagreed.

7                   And the other thing that he always said when  
8 people, litigators, clients used to say "Thank you, Your  
9 Honor," he would say, "Don't thank me, this is a public  
10 service organization." And he meant it. His entire  
11 career was devoted to public service to making sure  
12 every litigant felt that he or she had had a full day in  
13 court and a fair shake on the merits.

14                   It was a pleasure working with him and  
15 appearing before him for many, many years on many  
16 occasions, and we will never forget him. Thank you so  
17 much.

18                   (APPLAUSE IN THE AUDIENCE.)

19                   JUDGE MISSOURI: To all here assembled and  
20 on behalf of the Bar Association, I thank you for being  
21 here today, for coming in and observing our  
22 memorialization of our colleagues.

23                   Please come back again. We'll have the  
24 program according to Judge Adams the same time every  
25 year, so please make sure that you mark it on your

1       calendar now. It's a good and proper thing that we do.

2                   Chief Judge Nichols, on behalf of the Bar  
3       Association, I ask that these remarks be spread upon the  
4       permanent records of the Court and that copies thereof  
5       be sent to the families of the deceased.

6                   JUDGE NICHOLS: Chief Judge Missouri,  
7       certainly we will do that.

8                   Let me thank Judge Wallace, Judge Rattal,  
9       Judge Davey and Judge Engel for sitting with me today,  
10       as well as our Circuit and County Administrative Judge,  
11       Judge Adams, the judges in the well of the court, the  
12       judges in the audience. Especially Judge Mason who has  
13       been working the back door better than any doorman ever  
14       in this building.

15                  I must tell you that I snap to attention at  
16       the mention of Judge Powers' name because I was always  
17       afraid of him. And there was another instance. This is  
18       a much changed place since way back when. I can  
19       remember going into the law library and taking my coat  
20       off, and the Late William B. Bowie came up and tapped me  
21       on the shoulder, and he said, "Son, we don't take our  
22       coats off at the courthouse." You would think they  
23       would tell you about these things if they were all that  
24       serious, but that was not something that happened. It's  
25       just, we had our way.

1                   In any event, last year, I was honored to  
2 memorialize the late Bill Parker and a former president  
3 of our Bar. And I am even delighted this year to  
4 deliver the response of the Court in my new and somewhat  
5 limited capacity as Chief Judge. It is an awesome  
6 responsibility, and our speakers deserve great credit  
7 for a difficult job. I thank those who have this year  
8 given us a new and perhaps different perspective on the  
9 judges and lawyers we honor today.

10                  The law is not just a job. It is much more  
11 than a profession. It is a calling. It is a special  
12 trust governed by exacting rules of conduct and  
13 professionalism and even oaths and promises more than  
14 equal to what the clergy takes. While I can't honestly  
15 say that I miss waking up at 3:00 a.m. and wondering  
16 whether I filed that paper or not, I do miss standing  
17 next to someone in court and having the satisfaction of  
18 a job well done based on the training and experience as  
19 a lawyer and making their life the better for it, for  
20 that is our job as lawyers. I like to think we do it  
21 well here. I know that the colleagues we honor here  
22 today did exactly that.

23                  Our history is rich. United States Supreme  
24 Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, a part of the Marshall  
25 Court, who sat on our predecessor court here in Upper

1 Marlboro, walked the same paths that we do. I must tell  
2 you all, I was surprised to learn, he was also the  
3 Muster Master of our militia. I can picture him out on  
4 the front lawn now, maybe not with a clipboard, shouting  
5 to the assembled troops, "Fall in, dress right."

6 I shall remember him this spring when we  
7 have our annual veterans muster on the lawn. Reverdy  
8 Johnson of the Civil War era who served as ambassador to  
9 France and represented Mary Surratt, perhaps not as  
10 successfully as she would have liked. More close in  
11 time, Anne Musgrave, Esquire, the first female member of  
12 our Bar Association and a longtime member of the DAR, or  
13 Gertrude Poe, my former neighbor in Laurel and a  
14 graduate of American University School of Law, now 101  
15 years old who was the conscience of Laurel and was the  
16 Editor in Chief of the Laurel Leader, or Judge James  
17 Taylor of our Court, the first person of color to become  
18 a prosecutor and judge in Prince George's County  
19 history.

20 Judge David Gray Ross of this Court who went  
21 on to see the collection of child support in America, a  
22 rare time in history when we put someone in charge of  
23 national policy who really knows everything there is to  
24 know about it. Perhaps the new President will take that  
25 into consideration as he is dealing with cabinet

1       appointments.

2               I am very pleased to have had the chance to  
3 preside and to now direct, with permission of all my  
4 colleagues, to have the copies of the memorials be  
5 spread upon the permanent records of this Court and the  
6 copies sent to the families of those colleagues we honor  
7 this afternoon.

8               Having said that, Mr. Bailiff, if you would,  
9 please, sir, we're going to adjourn in honor of our  
10 colleagues, sir.

11               THE BAILIFF: All rise. This Special  
12 Session of the Circuit Court of Prince George's County  
13 is now adjourned.

14               (Whereupon, the Memorial Service concluded  
15 at 5:50 p.m.)

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