

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL SERVICES

for

PAUL J. HEFFERON

HON. WILLIAM H. McGRATH

NELSON N. WILLIAMS, JR.

EDWARD N. EVERETT

Friday, November 15, 1985

JOHN C. SPEAR  
Official Court Reporter  
P.O. Box 401  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

1  
2 P R O C E E D I N G S  
3

4 (The court convened en banc at 3:00 o'clock p.m.,  
5 there being present HONORABLE WILLIAM H. McCULLOUGH,  
6 Administrative Judge, and HONORABLE ALBERT T.  
7 BLACKWELL, JR., ROBERT H. MASON, AUDREY E. MELBOURNE,  
8 DAVID GRAY CROSS, G.R. HOVEY JOHNSON, and JOSEPH  
9 S. CASULA, Associate Judges.)

10 MR. EDWARD P. CAMUS: Your Honors, may it please  
11 the Court, this afternoon we have our memorial service.

12 The program itself will be handled in completion  
13 by Mr. Edwin Hutchinson, who for many years has been the  
14 chairman of this particular committee.

15 Therefore, I now call upon Mr. Hutchinson to  
16 step forward and present those matters before the Court now.

17 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. President.  
18 Judge McCullough, Associates Judges of the  
19 Prince George's County Circuit Court, Judges of the District  
20 Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, Mr. President,  
21 families and friends of the attorneys who are being honored  
22 here today, members of the Prince George's County Bar  
23 Association.

24 It is a tradition of this Court and this Bar  
25 Association to join together to pay tribute to our friends  
and fellow members of this Bar, who have departed this life  
since we last met in November of 1984 for a similar program.

1                   We will now take a little while to briefly review  
2 the time when these men were with us in the practice of law,  
3 in social events, and in the trial of cases before this  
4 Court and other Courts in this County and this State.

5                   The Attorneys we are honoring here today are  
6 Attorney Paul J. Hefferon, Judge William H. McGrath,  
7 Attorney Nelson N. Williams, Jr., and Attorney Edward N.  
8 Everett.

9                   Your Honors, it is my pleasure at this time to  
10 present Paul D. Murphy, who will speak to us regarding Paul  
11 J. Hefferon.

12                   PAUL J. HEFFERON

13                   MR. PAUL D. MURPHY: Judge McCullough, Honorable  
14 Judges of the Circuit Court, the Honorable Judges of the  
15 District Court.

16                   In 1955 when I left the United States Air Force  
17 I was hired as an insurance adjuster for the Charles E. Wilson  
18 Company, who was representing United Services Automobile  
19 Association. Paul Hefferon hired me in July of 1955. That  
20 is when I first got to know Paul.

21                   Paul was born in Pisten, Pennsylvania on April 11,  
22 1923.

23                   He received his education in the public schools  
24 up there winning a football scholarship to the University of  
25 Connecticut in 1940. He remained there until 1942 when he went

1 into the United States Army.

2 He remained in the Army from 1942-to-1946. He  
3 rose to a rank of captain in the infantry, and he was also  
4 wounded in Belgium requiring him to remain four months in the  
5 military hospital in England.

6 Before he left the service he was granted the  
7 Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and other citations while  
8 he was in the Army.

9 He returned here and resumed his education at  
10 the University of Scranton, graduating in 1948.

11 Mr. Hefferon met a beautiful Irish girl from  
12 Pennsylvania named Jean Callahan, and they subsequently  
13 married on April 4th, 1948.

14 At this time I would like to present Mrs.  
15 Hefferon to the Court. Mrs. Hefferon, would you please rise?

16 As a result of that marriage four children were  
17 born, Paul, Jr., Kevin, Lizann and Sean, who are present  
18 today. I wish to present them to the Court. Would you  
19 please rise?

20 Paul left the University of Scranton graduating  
21 with a B.S. degree in business and attended Dickinson Law  
22 School where he received his J.D. and moved to the Washington  
23 area.

24 He moved to Clinton in approximately 1954, where  
25 he has always lived.

1                   Mr. Hefferon was a member of this Bar Association,  
2 the Prince George's Bar Association, the District of Columbia  
3 Bar Association.

4                   He was also at Charles E. Wilson, a member of  
5                   that firm.

When he left them in 1969 he went with the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission, at which time he went there as an attorney, and rose to General Counsel, and he remained there until he died as General Counsel.

10 Mr. Hefferon was quite a unique person. When you  
11 met him you automatically felt warmth flow from him. He  
12 could get people to work together and to mend a lot of fences.

16                   Paul also had many friends, two of them are  
17                   present, Harry Daugherty and Bill Higgins, they had a  
18                   Saturday morning breakfast club. Every Saturday morning  
19                   they would meet and go to Happy Harbour. Happy Harbour is a  
20                   very unique restaurant. Judge Nolan has been there before.

They would rub elbows with the elite, such as  
a champion muskrat skinner, champion oyster eater, and the  
champion snail eater. Don't ask me what they had for  
breakfast, I wouldn't want to know.

There were some adjusters that worked for him,

1 Charles Kittredge and Ed Mullaney. We were all very fond of  
2 him, who we called Hef. We all remained friends in the early  
3 '50s on.

4 I feel that Mr. Hefferon was a family man, a good  
5 lawyer, a good leader, and he always had a saying, "You can't  
6 win them all".

7 I feel that whoever met Mr. Hefferon won something  
8 by just knowing him. He was a warm man, a true man.

9 I would like to present these words to the Court.  
10 Thank you.

11 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. Murphy.

12 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honors, I move that  
13 these remarks be made a permanent record of this court and  
14 a copy of same made available to the family of Mr. Hefferon.

15 The next one to be honored is William H. McGrath.  
16 I will ask Honorable Jacob Levin to speak to the Court  
17 regarding him.

18 HONORABLE WILLIAM H. MCGRATH

19 HONORABLE JACOB S. LEVIN: If it please the  
20 Court, the Honorable William H. McGrath died at the age of  
21 86 after having had a long and distinguished career as a  
22 public servant.

23 Bill was a graduate of the George Washington  
24 University School of Law.

25 He served as an officer in both World Wars. He

1 was a member of the Marine Corps thereafter for a short  
2 period of time.

3 He served on the Metropolitan Police Department,  
4 was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of  
5 Columbia, was the lawyer for our Zoning Board and our Liquor  
6 Appeals Board.

7 He was a charter member of the Seat Pleasant  
8 Lions Club, and a member of the American Legion, and a veteran  
9 and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

10 But it was as the Chief Judge for 12 years of the  
11 predecessor of our now District Court, that is as it was then  
12 known, Chief Judge of the Peoples Court that we as lawyers  
13 and a Bar Association all came to know and love him as a  
14 person.

15 He dispensed justice always with a pleasing wisdom  
16 that he had acquired by way of education and experience,  
17 and with a compassion that all litigants who came before, who  
18 come before the Bar deserve.

19 We will never forget him, and we will always  
20 cherish the association that we had with him as a lawyer,  
21 as a Judge, and above all as a warm, caring and a wonderful  
22 individual.

23 I respectfully request this Court that we adjourn  
24 these proceedings in memory of the late Honorable William  
25 H. McGrath, and that these remarks be spread upon the minutes

1 of this court.

2 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Judge Levin.

3 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honor, Attorney

4 Joseph De Paul will now speak also regarding Judge McGrath.

5 MR. JOSEPH De PAUL: Your Honors and ladies and  
6 gentlemen. I came to know Bill McGrath as a lawyer before  
7 I appeared before him as a Judge. He left a very strong  
8 impression on me, a devotion to duty and dedication to his  
9 work.

10 Mostly he impressed me as being a professional  
11 who was interested in representing people and helping them.  
12 He carried that with him throughout the years that he served  
13 as a lawyer, as well as the years that he served on the  
14 Bench.

15 He felt that we were here to serve, and we were  
16 privileged to have the license to practice law, and he felt  
17 that there was a message there for all of us that we ought to  
18 give just a little bit more than just the ordinary effort on  
19 behalf of our clients.

20 He felt we were in a position where we could help  
21 and we should do so without someone telling us that it needed  
22 a little extra drive, a half hour's work, that it was part of  
23 our responsibility.

24 That made quite an impression on me, and I  
25 frankly try to pass it on to all those that I have come into

1 contact with over the years.

2 I was also equally impressed by his devotion to  
3 duty and his awareness of his responsibilities as a Judge.

4 He had certain things that you could do in his  
5 courtroom, certain things that you could not do. It was  
6 always done with an eye towards expediting the docket, or  
7 servicing the people, and remembering that those people who  
8 came into his courtroom might be having their one exposure  
9 to court, and that one exposure to the judicial system, and  
10 that they had a right to be heard and they had a right to be  
11 treated with fairness and kindness.

12 As Your Honors know, and most of you all know  
13 he was not a soft man, he was not an easy man. He was neither  
14 prone to listen to lengthy arguments, nor was he to hand out  
15 lengthy sentences. He was more interested in doing the right  
16 thing for the people that appeared before him.

17 Sometimes if you were someone he knew you could  
18 tell how you were doing in front of him by whether or not he  
19 addressed you as Captain or Sergeant. When he called me  
20 Sergeant I was in pretty good shape. When he called me  
21 Captain, I tried to remind him I had only been a PFC. in the  
22 war and I didn't have any rank.

23 In any event, Judge McGrath was always very  
24 careful in the way he handled the people in his courtroom,  
25 and he left us with the impression, all of us who participated

1 in the activities in his court, that these things were  
2 important, whatever it was that was happening affected people,  
3 and that they had a right to the best that he and that we  
4 could give to ourselves.

5 He was a good man, he was a good soldier, he was  
6 a good lawyer, he was a good Judge. All around he was a  
7 very good American.

8 I am pleased to be allowed to speak on his behalf.

9 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. De Paul.

10 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honors, I move that  
11 these remarks be spread upon the records of the court and  
12 a copy of same sent to the family of Judge McGrath.

13 I would now like to introduce to the Court  
14 Elvira White, an attorney from the Public Defender's Office,  
15 who will speak to us regarding Edward Everett.

16 EDWARD N. EVERETT

17 MS. ELVIRA WHITE: Good afternoon, distinguished  
18 members of the Bench, colleagues and friends. I am here today  
19 to present some remarks in memory of Edward Nathan "Skip"  
20 Everett.

21 It is difficult to remember him in sadness,  
22 especially this room, because it was just here last summer  
23 that I delivered a presentation at the investiture of the  
24 Honorable William Missouri.

25 Skip sat there smiling, encouraging me because he

1 knew I was just an absolute nervous wreck. He held my hand  
2 before I came in here and encouraged me as I sat out there  
3 because he knew that I wanted to do the best job I could at  
4 that investiture.

5 I am here today to pay tribute to a deceased  
6 colleague and a very dear friend. Skip, as we called him,  
7 always called him, and it is not with sadness but with  
8 fond memories that all of us remember him.

9 I first came to know Skip as a member of the  
10 class of 1978 at the University of Maryland Law School.  
11 There he distinguished himself as a friendly, outgoing class-  
12 mate who enjoyed a vigorous argument or a lively discussion  
13 on almost any subject.

14 Back in those days he was the regional director  
15 of BALSA, Black American Law Student Association, and he  
16 traveled widely encouraging the full participation of the  
17 minorities in the legal community.

18 More recently he was an active member of many  
19 professional associations, particularly the J. Franklin  
20 Bourne Bar Association, the Prince George's County Bar  
21 Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, and the  
22 Kiwanis Club here in the community.

23 Skip, as he was affectionately known, would  
24 have turned 34 years old last Wednesday, November the 6th.  
25 His sudden departure on September 29th of this year left a

1 void in our closely knit legal community where he served as  
2 first a private practitioner, and later after poor health  
3 forced him to curtail his practice, he became a dedicated  
4 panel Public Defender and worked diligently all the time  
5 even though he was in frail condition.

6 But to know Skip and talk to him daily, none  
7 of us would have noticed the physical heart condition that  
8 would have plagued him most of his life.

9 Skip suffered from this heart condition since the  
10 age of three, and no one ever thought that he would reach  
11 adulthood, so that was a miracle in itself. Each day that he  
12 lived he considered that a great joy and a great honor.

13 So committed to our profession and its high  
14 standards that in his last days he devoted himself to helping  
15 newly sworn lawyers, to assisting colleagues in private  
16 practice, and to securing the financial feature of his only  
17 child, Alesta Noreen Everett, who is three years old.

18 In his memory we will continue dedicating our  
19 energies to the legal profession, and we have taken steps  
20 to see that Alesta's future is assured as Skip would have  
21 wanted us to do.

22 I am privileged to have known him and we will  
23 miss the joy that he shared with us each day of his short  
24 life.

25 I would like to present at the defense table a

1 gift where Skip would have spent most of his joyful days.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Ms. White.

4 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much.

5 I would move that these remarks also be made part of the  
6 permanent record of the court, and a copy of same given to the  
7 family of Mr. Edward N. Everett.

8 The next attorney we are speaking about was  
9 Nelson N. Williams, Jr., and I would like to introduce to the  
10 Court William J. Kenney, member of the D.C. Bar, who will  
11 speak to us regarding this gentleman.

12 NELSON N. WILLIAMS, JR.

13 MR. WILLIAM J. KENNEY: Honorable Judges, members  
14 of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

15 I am flattered to join with the members of the  
16 Prince George's County Bar Association and the families and  
17 friends in this memorial service for the recently deceased  
18 members.

19 To the families please accept my deepest  
20 condolences. I hope our participation will help the families  
21 in understanding the service their loved one contributed to  
22 this community, and to the Bar, and the honor and respect we  
23 hold of their memory.

24 I particularly want to salute the memory of a  
25 close friend and member of my family, Colonel Nelson N. Williams.

1 Nelson's wife and family, his brother and his  
2 sisters in law have joined us today for this memorial service,  
3 and have asked me to convey their thanks and respect to all.

4 Forgive me if I now and again refer to Nelson as  
5 Bill, as I have always known him as Bill.

6 Nelson died a few months shy of his 57th birthday,  
7 on February 3rd, 1985.

12 His father, Noah Williams, was a hard working,  
13 God-loving man. A machinist by trade, a father by avocation.  
14 He died about a year prior to Nelson's death.

15 Nelson had two brothers, Tom and Don, both of  
16 whom were -- and I'm sure are very close to him.

19 Nelson was the epitome of rural American success.  
20  
21 He started school in a one-room school in Murray, Kentucky,  
22 and while the depression caused detours to Detroit, Michigan,  
23 he ultimately graduated as one of 13 in the graduating class  
from Kirskey, Kentucky. Not yet 16, Nelson enrolled as a  
pre-med student at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

Following graduation in 1949, Bill taught biology

1 and science in the Kiwanee, Missouri High School, doubling as  
2 a school bus driver, all to get the money to fulfill his  
3 ambition of going to medical school and becoming a doctor.  
4 Like so many of our dreams, war intervened.

5 With the start of the Korean War, Nelson enlisted  
6 in the United States Air Force as an aviation cadet.

7 Following commissioning and graduation from  
8 Flight School, Nelson served with distinction as a Jet Fighter  
9 pilot in Korea.

10 Incidentally, the Williams were well represented  
11 in Korea as all three brothers were there at the same time.

12 Nelson flew 98 missions, earned the Distinguished  
13 Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal, with numerous  
14 clusters, and emerged a dedicated, Career Officer.

15 Fate transferred him to Westerner Air Force Base  
16 in Chicopee, Massachusetts in 1953, where he met, wooed, and  
17 in 1954 married a local French-Canadian girl, Ruth Lafleur.  
18 Ruth, incidentally, is my wife's first cousin.

19 Ruth was the ideal compliment of Bill. She  
20 shared his sense of humor, his fun loving ways, and his  
21 dreams.

22 Together they have given us a great heritage.  
23 Their family, all of whom are with us today: The twins,  
24 Kathy Williams, Nicky Williams Rocco, here with her husband  
25 and Bill's light of his world, his grand-daughter, and

1 Don Williams, Liz Williams, and Latty Williams.

2 As his family grew, Bill found the transfers of  
3 military life disruptive of his family life. First  
4 transferred to Washington in 1964, Bill found a home. His  
5 family stayed here during his tour in Vietnam; and, upon his  
6 return, Bill's thoughts were to a second career. While on  
7 active duty with the Air Force he attended the University of  
8 Baltimore Law School.

9 Following his graduation and admission to the  
10 Bar in 1978, Bill opened his practice as a solo practitioner  
11 here in Fort Washington, and maintained that practice til  
12 his death.

13 With his contacts and his military grade he could  
14 have easily sought a corporate practice and the comfort of  
15 a lobbying career. Bill elected instead to seek out the lonely  
16 and the poor of Fort Washington.

17 As someone who has sampled his practice I can  
18 speak with some real testimony Bill may have cut the corners  
19 of the books, but he never cut the corner of his heart.  
20 His dedication to his clients and their love for him is a  
21 unique witness and a unique testimony to the Bar.

22 I was privileged to spend the afternoon of his  
23 unexpected death with him. He talked of his family and of  
24 the great sense of love and pride each of his children have  
25 given him in their individual ways.

1                   We talked of his practice; Two cases needed  
2 immediate attention, and his illness and hospitalization made  
3 it necessary to ask for help.

4                   We talked of his dreams. He still harbored  
5 the dream of medical school. But, he was anxious that his  
6 planned program for Rehabilitation of Alcohol and other  
7 abuse offenders keep moving.

8                   I am particularly pleased to see that his wife,  
9 Ruth, his brother, Tom, and his sister-in-law, Janet, have  
10 recently successfully opened the Williams Center to provide  
11 counseling, training, education and guidance to alcohol and  
12 substance abuse offenders to provide an opportunity of  
13 rehabilitation.

14                   I ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer  
15 in salute to the memory of our brother at the Bar, Colonel  
16 Nelson N. Williams, United States Air Force, Retired.  
17                   A man uniquely gifted by God; a patriot; a fighter; a doer;  
18 a dreamer, but above all a patient, giving and loving family  
19 man. We mourn his death, but we rejoice in what he gave us  
20 all in life.

21                   JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. Kenney.

22                   MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you. I move this  
23 court that these remarks be made a part of the record of the  
24 court and a copy of the same be sent to the family of  
25 Nelson Williams.

1                   Is June White Dillard here? I would like to  
2 introduce to the Court June White Dillard, who will speak  
3 also regarding Mr. Nelson Williams.

4                   MS. JUNE WHITE DILLARD: To the Honorable Judges  
5 of the Court, Members of the Bar, family of Nelson Williams.  
6 I am June White Dillard, and I am a very close friend of  
7 Nelson Williams.

8                   I met him when we were studying for the Bar,  
9 which brings lawyers together in a very, very special way.  
10 We happened to pass at the same time.

11                  That cemented our friendship, after which I moved  
12 my office to Prince George's County.

13                  He was a close friend, trusted advisor. His  
14 door was always open, if you had a problem, if you had some-  
15 thing that you needed to discuss, if you needed a confidant.

16                  Our friendship continued to grow.

17                  I watched his practice grow. He devoted many hours  
18 to the people in Fort Washington. He was not concerned about  
19 how much they earned, or what class they were in, or what  
20 race they were.

21                  He was truly a member of the Bar that we would  
22 all be very proud of, and I would just like to add my  
23 particular thoughts and sympathy in his memory today to the  
24 family and to the members of the Bar.

25                  We lost a member that gave many things to us.

1 Whenever he was in the courthouse he was always smiling. He  
2 always had a friendly word, a joke to share with you, and it  
3 was a pleasure to see him.

4 I truly miss him around the courthouse.

5 Thank you.

6 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Ms. Dillard.

7 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you. Your Honors,  
8 I move that these remarks be made part of the record of this  
9 court and a copy of same be sent to the family of Nelson N.  
10 Williams.

11 This concludes the people we are honoring today,  
12 and I would like to just make one announcement. These flowers  
13 on the table here, counsel table, are for the families of  
14 these deceased that we have honored here today, and I would  
15 request that some member of the family of each one be  
16 responsible to see that they get to the proper people.

17 Your Honor, we are now ready for some remarks  
18 from the Court.

19 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you.

20 Mr. Hutchinson, Chief Judge Loveless asked me to  
21 express his regret of not being able to be here to preside  
22 at this memorial service. He always felt and still feels  
23 that it is an honor to be able to be the presiding judge at  
24 this ceremony.

25 However, he is recovering from surgery and it was

1 physically impossible for him to be here today. He asked that  
2 I would preside in his stead.

3 All of the judges are very grateful to the  
4 Prince George's County Bar Association and the members of the  
5 committee on memorials for the presentation of these memorials  
6 today and making the arrangements for the ceremony.

7 It is a very find tradition that we have maintained  
8 in Prince George's County for many years, that we pause from  
9 the usual adversary matters taking place in the courtroom to  
10 honor our departed brothers and pay tribute to their memories.

11 So the Court, all of whose members have enjoyed  
12 a very pleasant and warm relationship with those who have  
13 been memorialized today, will direct the memorials presented  
14 will be spread on the permanent records of the court and  
15 that copies will be sent to the families of those colleagues  
16 we are honoring today.

17 Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our departed brothers,  
18 you may now announce adjournment of this court.

19 (Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m. the memorial service  
20 was concluded.)