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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

WALTER L. GREEN

THEODORE D. MACHEN

SAMUEL W. H. MELOY

JOHN D. SEBASTIAN

MARION E. WEST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

3:00 P. M.

CEREMONIAL COURTROOM 300M

COURT HOUSE

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

PROCEEDINGS

... The Court convened en banc at 3:00 p. m., there being present the Honorable William H. McCullough, Chief Judge, the Honorable Arthur M. Ahalt, Associate Judge, the Honorable C. Philip Nichols, Associate Judge, the Honorable William Spellbring, Associate Judge, and the Honorable James Magruder Rea, Associate Judge, Retired . . .

10 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: The Court is pleased to
11 recognize Michael P. Whalen, the president of the
12 Prince George's County Bar Association.

Mr. Whalen?

14 MR. WHALEN: Thank you, Judge McCullough.
15 May it please the Court, ladies and gentlemen, as I
16 said, out of all of the services and activities that
17 have been initiated and fostered by the Bar
18 Association over a long period of time, certainly one
19 of the finest is this annual memorial service to those
20 of our members who have recently departed, so that we
21 may pay our respects.

22 It is an opportunity for the family to get
23 together with those friends and colleagues of these
24 men and women and the Association, pay their respects,
25 and to honor their memory in the very halls where they

1 spent a great deal of their time and efforts. And we
2 are pleased that you are all here with us today, and
3 we believe it's in the finest tradition of the Bar
4 Association and of our County.

5 At this time, I would like to introduce to
6 you Judge Jacob S. Levin, a past president of the this
7 Association and Chair of the Memorial Service
8 Committee.

9 JUDGE LEVIN: Please the Court, 1993 was a
10 bad year for our profession. We lost five outstanding
11 lawyers. Today we are here to remember and
12 memorialize them in the presence of their families.

13 The first lawyer that will be called upon
14 will be Carlton M. Green, son of Walter L. Green.

15 MR. GREEN: Your Honors, ladies and
16 gentlemen, I am Carlton Green. My father, Walter
17 Green was a member this Court for probably the longest
18 number of years of anybody that I can recently
19 remember dying, and it's in his honor that I would
20 like to furnish you my remarks.

21 It is my honor and privilege at this time to
22 give a memorial minute to my father. He died March
23 the 9th, 1993, at 88 years of age.

24 On a personal note, my first visit to this
25 courthouse was when he was coming here to give a

1 memorial minute for one of his contemporaries. And I
2 believe it was in the late 1950's that we just managed
3 to get here on time. And I might point out, I did the
4 same, having just managed to get here on time today.

5 My father was born on July the 2nd, 1904, in
6 Graham, Texas, which was a small Texas town. He was
7 the son of a Presbyterian minister. In his youth, he
8 lived in a number of states; Arkansas, Missouri,
9 Texas, Oklahoma, with his father as a Presbyterian
10 minister who went from place to place in preaching.

11 My father started his business career at
12 nine years of age, selling tickets for the Cape
13 Girardeau Northern Railroad, which was located in
14 Fruitland, Missouri. And he worked in a variety of
15 places. He worked in a cannery plant. He worked on a
16 farm while going to school there in Fruitland.

17 It's has been said that all great men are
18 dreamers. All too frequently, we let those dreams
19 die. He did not.

20 I can share with you some of the dreams that
21 he had that he did not let die. In a commencement
22 address at the School of the Ozarks, which is in Point
23 Lookout, Missouri, a school where you have to work
24 your way through college, there was no tuition paid.
25 It was a free school. He had very little money, and

1 this was the way he accomplished his dream. My father
2 gave the commencement address in 1989, and he
3 described his dreams there. And I would like to share
4 that with you today.

5 In July, 1918, then a boy of 14, plowing a
6 field behind a mule, he paused to look around. He was
7 alone on the farm. His brother had gone on to fight
8 World War I. What he saw were the things surrounding
9 him; a mule, the woods, and a farmhouse where he
10 lived. His thoughts were getting into the world,
11 undertaking great and difficult tasks, and
12 accomplishing worthwhile goals.

13 He questioned what his world would be. A
14 mule, a plow, and a farmhouse? In that commencement
15 address, he reflected on his then thoughts and quoted
16 the words of Alfred Lloyd Tennyson. "For I dipped
17 into the future, far as the human eye could see, saw a
18 vision of the world and all the wonders that were to
19 be."

20 His dream was to leave that farm, get an
21 education, do many useful and worthwhile things, and
22 enlarge his world beyond his then vision of the mule,
23 the plow, and the small farm.

24 It was not easy. In 1920, he went to Point
25 Lookout, Missouri to the School of the Ozarks to get

1 his education. Following that, he spent two years in
2 a tuberculosis sanatorium. At that time, tuberculosis
3 was a very serious disease. In fact, he was given up.
4 The doctor didn't give him much chance of living in
5 1920.

6 He got out of the sanatorium, and he worked
7 for a bank, a newspaper, and a hotel. He went to a
8 business college in Oklahoma City, another school in
9 Boulder, Colorado, and the University of Utah in Salt
10 Lake City. He realized his dream to get an education
11 when he graduated in 1929 from the National Law
12 School, which is now part of George Washington
13 University.

14 His chosen occupation was to become a
15 lawyer. He also had several other occupations that he
16 did on the side. He was a politician, a banker, a
17 businessman, and an entrepreneur. His dream was to do
18 many useful and worthwhile things in each.

19 He was admitted to the practice law in
20 Maryland on November 17th, 1931, 62 years ago
21 yesterday. His law office was in Hyattsville. Ralph
22 Powers, the former Chief Judge of this Court, was one
23 of his first law partners. Judge Loveless used to
24 work for him at one time, a long time ago.

25 On May the 29th, 1939, he was appointed by

1 the then Governor O'Connor to be the Trial Magistrate
2 in Hyattsville, which was a part time position. This
3 is the equivalent of today's District Court, but in
4 those days, they only had need for a part time Judge
5 in that Court.

6 In 1941, tragedy struck. My brother Walter
7 Jr. died at age five. My sister, Anne, and I were
8 born in the 1940's. I happened to be born on a day he
9 was arguing a case in the Court of Appeals.

10 At the end of Second World War, he returned
11 to his private law practice full time. During his 61
12 year legal career, he accumulated more than ten
13 thousand legal files. And it was my job to keep track
14 of those legal files.

15 And in going through things, I happened to
16 find something that I thought would be of interest to
17 Mike Whalen, which I wanted to present to him today.
18 I came across the Articles of Incorporation, the
19 original Articles of Incorporation of the Prince
20 George's County Bar Association. So, Mike you now
21 know where they were.

22 MR. WHALEN: Thank you.

23 MR. GREEN: In the 1950's, he unsuccessfully
24 ran for Congress on four separate occasions as a
25 democratic candidate. He was not willing to let his

1 dream of accomplishing worthwhile goals die.
2 Beginning in the early 1950's, he devoted most of his
3 time to his various business interests.

4 His career as a businessman is worthy of
5 mention. He served as a bank director for more than
6 50 years. He owned and operated hotels in five
7 states. He developed housing subdivisions, shopping
8 centers, condominiums, and hotels. He operated
9 chicken farms, ice cream stores, restaurants,
10 apartment projects, a title abstracting business, and
11 several other businesses. He founded banks, savings
12 banks, and small business investment corporations.

13 He was a charter member of the Hyattsville
14 Lions Club, a Mason, and a member of the Advisory
15 Board for the Salvation Army in Prince George's
16 County. These too were realizations of his dream to
17 accomplish worthwhile things.

18 In 1966, he was President of the Prince
19 George's County Bar Association. Still the dreamer,
20 he used his vision of the world and all the wonders
21 that were to be. As President of the Bar Association,
22 he sought to establish a Federal Court in Prince
23 George's County. The Judges in Baltimore opposed the
24 idea.

25 Not willing to give up, he asked then

1 Senator Brewster to support the idea. Senator
2 Brewster had a legislative assistant, Steny Hoyer, who
3 was given the task of researching the merits of
4 establishing such a Court. It was my father who
5 planted the seed. Many others later endorsed the
6 vision. In 1988, President Reagan signed the bill
7 then sponsored by Congressman Hoyer, which established
8 the Southern District for the United States District
9 Court of Maryland. The courthouse for that Court is
10 now under construction in Greenbelt.

11 His dream of accomplishing worthwhile things
12 was realized in part by this. Robert Lewis Stevenson
13 put it well when he talked about achievement. "That
14 man is a success who has lived well, laughed often
15 loved much, who has gained the respect of intelligent
16 men and the love of his children, who has filled his
17 niche and accomplished his task, who leaves the world
18 a better place than he found it, who looked for the
19 best in others and gave the best he had."

20 During his life, he realized his dreams of
21 undertaking great and difficult tasks and
22 accomplishing worthwhile goals. He certainly gave the
23 best he had to give. As an observer of his actions
24 over more than 40 years, I conclude he realized much
25 success in whatever he undertook.

1 How does one measure success? Success is to
2 be measured not so much by the position that one has
3 attained in life but more by the obstacles that one is
4 to overcome while trying to succeed. He encountered
5 many obstacles, and he overcame them. From his days
6 behind a mule, the year in the tuberculosis
7 sanatorium, to the end of his life, it was his
8 tenacity to not give up, to not let his dreams die
9 that led to his success, which can be a lesson for all
10 of us.

11 In his memory and his honor, I offer my
12 comments as a memorial to him. Thank you, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE LEVIN: I would like at this time to
14 recognize Judge Richard A. Sothoron, who will
15 memorialize Theodore Machen.

16 JUDGE SOTHORON: Chief Judge McCullough,
17 members of the Bench, members of the Bench who are
18 retired, fellow lawyers, friends of all the honorees
19 today, and most important on this occasion, the Machen
20 family, it is an absolute honor for me to be here and
21 talk about my friend, Mike Machen.

22 Mike Machen was a contemporary of mine, and
23 he will always be a dear friend of mine. I find it
24 some what ironic today that Carlton just finished
25 talking about his father. Mike and Carlton were

1 classmates at Northwestern High School, and Carlton's
2 father and Mike's dad Hervey were the dearest of
3 friends.

4 Mike was known to everybody as Mike Machen.
5 his familial name is Theodore Davis Machen, Davis
6 being the maiden name of his mother. What many of you
7 may not know is that Mike had the distinction of
8 having a wonderful family based in Hyattsville but
9 well known throughout Prince George's County. Present
10 today is not only his mom and dad but his sisters
11 Amanda, Susan, Bill, and Hervey, Jr. Mike was an
12 uncle to no less than ten nieces and nephews and ten
13 grand nieces and nephews, with the count still coming
14 as of right now.

He was born on August 31st, 1944, which I
might point out was a very good year, because that was
the same year I was born. And he was born here in
Prince George's County. He was a native to
Hyattsville. He attended Hyattsville Elementary
School, thereafter Hyattsville Junior High School, and
then graduated in 1962 from Northwestern High School,
the same year I graduated.

23 Thereafter, he attended the University of
24 Maryland in College Park, graduating in 1966, and then
25 applied and was accepted to the University of

1 Mississippi Law School, where he attended for one
2 year, thereafter transferring and finishing at the
3 University of Maryland in 1969.

4 My first recollection of Michael, and many
5 of you might recall this, was the wonderful crab feast
6 that Hervey Machen, then a distinguished member of the
7 House of Delegates and subsequently a member of
8 Congress, would have at the retreat down in Broom's
9 Island that I think the entire population of Prince
10 George's County was invited you.

11 Judge Loveless' family had a summer place
12 right next door, as did the Quinn family. And my
13 recollection is it was such a wonderful experience
14 because as a kid, you could eat all the crabs you
15 wanted to and drink all the soda pops, and you didn't
16 have to worry about voting for anybody. So, it was a
17 wonderful thing.

18 Thereafter, the Machen family and Sothoron
19 family decided to rehabilitate their children by
20 sending them to church camp. Surprisingly, Mike and I
21 ended up going to the church camp at the same time,
22 and it wasn't the most religious experience at that
23 time, but for that reason, we had a good time.

24 After Michael graduated from law school, he
25 joined the distinguished law firm of Lancaster, Bland,

1 Eisele, and Herring. Now, he knew everybody from that
2 law firm, and the reason he knew everybody from that
3 law firm is he worked as a title abstracter and did
4 many, many hours in that point in time in the land
5 records here in the courthouse. Mike would always
6 tell me that land records was a wonderful place to
7 work, because indeed, that was the gossip capital of
8 Upper Marlboro, and all the rumors were rather rampant
9 in land records.

10 After he joined Lancaster, Bland, Eisele,
11 and Herring based in Hyattsville, he left that firm
12 and went to work for another distinguished firm, the
13 firm of Nylon and Gilmore that many of you know.

14 As some outside the family may know, Michael
15 had a hearing problem, and he was somewhat self-
16 conscious of that. His friends didn't mind because he
17 had worn a hearing aid, and I commended him for that.
18 But he was a very caring person, so much so that he
19 was really concerned about representing his clients to
20 the absolute best of his ability, and that meant
21 certainly on occasion going to Court.

22 So, considering that disability (at least it
23 was to him), he decided to leave the practice of law
24 for a period of time, and he ventured into a world
25 that he really loved. It's a world of landscaping,

1 and he went to work for a facility in Davidsonville
2 called Homestead Gardens, where he literally worked
3 with the land for approximately two years.

4 And then, fortunately for the lawyers and
5 Judges in Prince George's County, he came back to work
6 as an Associate County Attorney in the same office
7 that our president, Mike Whalen, is now heading. And
8 he worked in that office up until the time of his
9 untimely death.

10 Michael was well respected not only in the
11 private practice arena but also in the office of law,
12 as evidenced by the large turn out here today of his
13 fellow employees. He would oversee very sophisticated
14 land use issues, and he always did a masterful job in
15 doing so.

16 What many of you may not know, and I've
17 already told you that Michael lived in Hyattsville and
18 he socialized and worked in Upper Marlboro, but the
19 true location of his calling turned out to be
20 Acquasco. And for those of you who are not aware of
21 Acquasco, you just go down 301, make a left on 381, as
22 Judge Rea would point out, and you're in the heart of
23 Acquasco.

24 And Acquasco is very much still country to
25 this day. In fact, there was talk several years ago

1 of making Acquasco into an historic area of Prince
2 George's County, and Michael was a leader in that
3 movement. And Michael lived in Acquasco until the
4 time of his death.

5 He took pride in that area, because he went
6 ahead and was very much into preservation,
7 preservation of historic artifacts in the County and
8 restoring homes. And he did that to himself as far as
9 his own residence is concerned.

10 And he also was loved by that entire
11 community. He went ahead and made friends rapidly
12 with the entire population in the southern part of
13 Prince George's County, especially that older
14 population, the senior citizens, if you would, because
15 he would look after them. He would go ahead and
16 assist in refurbishing and caring for their homes.
17 And he became himself a source of knowledge about the
18 history of Prince George's County, so much so that he
19 became a very well-versed historian of the County.
20 And he prided himself in conveying those wonderful
21 stories of yesteryear to his contemporaries.

22 I remember a wonderful dinner party, as we
23 would call it, that I was fortunate to be invited to
24 with my in-laws and my wife. And Michael treated us
25 to a feast of spareribs and fried oysters cooked to

1 perfection by his lovely friend Hilda down in
2 Acquasco. And I can guarantee that, cholesterol
3 aside, it's was a wonderful meal that I still can
4 taste to this day.

5 I think the one area that Michael really
6 loved the most of everything, and I'm putting the law
7 aside for a second, is fox hunting. And for those of
8 you who have never partaken or observed a fox hunting
9 event, it is something to be seen. I can tell you
10 that I have been fortunate to see everything from
11 ground level but not from horse or bark level.

12 Michael was a master equestrian, and he
13 relished the idea of gallivanting across the
14 countryside on a fall day with the leaves falling and
15 the colorful countryside, riding across many of the
16 farms here in Prince George's County, one of which was
17 Judge and Mrs. Meloy's farm. And he loved that to his
18 heart's content.

19 One thing that they do when one fox hunts is
20 that if you are very efficient at it, and you have
21 contributed to the hunt by bulldozing trails, going
22 out and working on weekends to go ahead and make sure
23 that the area that you hunt is a safe area for
24 everybody, they award somebody by, in a man's
25 situation, giving them their colors. In this case,

1 that meant awarding Michael with the scarlet coat that
2 one might remember is affiliated with fox hunting.

3 And Michael was so honored several years ago, and that
4 indeed was a very special moment in his life.

5 I think what is most memorable to me,
6 though, of Mike Machen, his expertise as a lawyer
7 aside, his friendship aside, how wonderful a son, how
8 wonderful a brother or a grand uncle he was, and a
9 friend to many, is the fact that Michael over the last
10 years of his illness reflected a quality that most of
11 us don't have. And that is to say he showed courage.
12 He knew that his illness wasn't one that was going to
13 be cured, but he never complained about it. He would
14 always talk about very positive things. He would
15 always talk about things that made you feel good, and
16 I loved him for that.

17 I would also like to tell you that Michael
18 had a menagerie of animals down in Acquasco that but
19 for and if it had not been for the County attorneys,
20 Michael, we would have had a few violations on our
21 hands, but somehow, you managed to keep all these
22 animals healthy. And toward his final days, he
23 arranged for every one of those animals to find a safe
24 home. And I think that tells you something about
25 Michael; putting other people and other animals,

1 before himself.

2 This indeed is, as Judge Levin said, a sad
3 time, because we have lost wonderful lawyers and a
4 wonderful Judge, Judge Meloy, who I love dearly, too.
5 But I look at it from the standpoint of what Reverend
6 Manning said last week when I was talking about Judge
7 Meloy. It's a celebration, and it's a celebration
8 because I am fortunate, as are the other speakers
9 today, to have known these people. And I think what
10 is unfortunate is that the new practitioners that are
11 coming into this County to practice law, who will one
12 day maybe ascend to the Bench as I was fortunate to
13 do, will never have the benefit of knowing these
14 wonderful lawyers, of listening to the wisdom of a
15 Walter Green or a Marion West or the fine personality
16 of Jack Sebastian or trying a case in front of Judge
17 Meloy or being a friend of Mike Machen.

18 And in my instance, I will not hesitate to
19 go ahead and take those new practitioners aside and
20 tell them how wonderful these lawyers were as teachers
21 and as friends. And in Mike Machen's case, I will
22 tell them that not only was Mike Machen a wonderful
23 lawyer, a community activist, a wonderful son, a
24 wonderful brother, a wonderful uncle, above all else,
25 he was a very dear friend of mine.

Judge McCullough, I would respectfully move
that these comments be made a part of the permanent
record, that the transcription of same be made, and a
copy of said transcript be provided to the loving
family of Theodore Davis "Mike" Machen.

JUDGE McCULLOUGH: The motion is granted,
Judge Sothoron.

8 JUDGE LEVIN: At this time, I would like to
9 recognize Robert Matty, who will memorialize Judge
10 Samuel W. H. Meloy.

Judge Meloy served as a Judge here in the
Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1965
until his retirement, some 17 years later. Prior to
becoming a member of the Circuit Court, he had served
as a United States Magistrate here in Maryland. And
even after his retirement, he served as a United
States Land Commissioner up in Baltimore. So, when
you use the word Judge with Judge Meloy, he was a
Judge in the truest sense of the word.

24 His judicial philosophy could be summarized
25 as follows, and in fact these are his words. "One,

1 get to the core of the problem, be decisive in your
2 rulings, and render justice to the parties." He was a
3 believer that most disputes could be resolved through
4 compromise and discussion, as long as the individuals
5 before him were -- and again, this is his quote --
6 "intellectually honest." Because of that, he had a
7 reputation among the Bench and the Bar known as
8 Settling Sam.

9 But in spite of that reputation, he was a
10 very principled individual. In the event that he saw
11 overreaching by the Government or overreaching by any
12 of the parties before him, he would take the
13 appropriate action to deal with that. He was not a
14 man that was concerned with being popular. He was a
15 man who was concerned with justice and making the
16 appropriate decision.

17 But to describe him as Judge Meloy would be
18 much like the tip of an iceberg, because he was a man
19 whose interests were so wide and varied that he could
20 not be compartmentalized as a lawyer and a Judge.

21 If you went into chambers, you could find
22 out so much about him. For example, to the right of
23 his desk would be a four volume set dealing with
24 philosophy, and these were not coffee table books that
25 were there to sort of show off to people. These were

1 books that he read on a continuous basis. He was a
2 man that was interested in Eastern philosophy, Western
3 philosophy. He was interested in the house of life
4 and the ideas of life. He always had questions as to
5 why things were as they were and in fact how they
6 could be changed.

7 And he had a great appetite for learning.
8 You would see him on a daily walk to the library when
9 it was just down the road, because the Judge would be
10 returning the book that he had read the night before
11 and picking up another book to take home and read that
12 evening. And in fact, he had completed so many books
13 before the public even knew that those books had been
14 published. That was his appetite for reading.

15 But as soon I began to categorize him as a
16 Judge and a philosopher, which I think he would be
17 proud of being referred to as such, the spring and the
18 summer would come, and then you would see the side of
19 the Judge as gentleman farmer, the fellow that would
20 come into the courthouse bringing chrysanthemums to
21 each of the offices, each of the chambers, and the
22 products of what he referred to as a garden, which was
23 some two or three acres in size that he himself
24 cultivated and would bring to the different offices.
25 And when you asked him about it, he would remark as to

1 how much joy he had brought to these people just by
2 bringing in flowers or just by bringing in some
3 vegetables that he had grown there on the farm.

4 And then he would explain to you the joy
5 that he got from growing these things, because again
6 the Judge, the philosopher would talk about getting
7 your hands in the earth, the source of everything.
8 And again, as soon as I began to compartmentalize him,
9 well, here's another thing that he is involved with.

10 I would have to say that what his foremost
11 interest would probably be was athletics. Anyone who
12 went into chambers, saw that there was a sign that
13 hung right above the entrance to his office. And that
14 sign, which is being uttered by people in the back,
15 said "players and coaches only." That was an unusual
16 thing to find in a Judge's office, but the Judge was
17 quite a competitor. In his sixties he was a fantastic
18 tennis player who beat people half his age. And in
19 terms of being a competitor, if you were his doubles
20 partner, he expected you to play just as hard as he
21 did. And he did not expect you to double fault, for
22 example, at critical points in a match.

23 He was also involved, as everyone knows,
24 with the University of Maryland, so much so that at
25 one point the office was referred to as the adjunct

1 ticket office. The reason for that is some two
2 hundred football tickets and one hundred basketball
3 tickets would be dispensed right from the Judge's
4 chambers. And Anna Mae would be on the phone making
5 calls at a certain point in the year, and each of the
6 attorneys who are sitting out there and certainly
7 members of the Bench were aware of that.

8 She would call you up and say, "football
9 season is coming. Get your money in." And calls
10 would be made after that to make sure that the money
11 was in. And then, there would be a dispensing of the
12 football tickets, and people would have to come in and
13 acknowledge that they had received those tickets from
14 the Judge.

15 There were many lawyers who dreaded the fact
16 that they would have to appear before the Judge in the
17 event that Maryland had lost an important game on a
18 Saturday. And from that laughter, there were many
19 that felt that way or a certain basketball game. But
20 his concept was just not winning. He was a firm
21 believer in the University winning with student
22 athletes; not athletes who were pretending to be
23 students. He wanted the University to win, but
24 typical of his principled lifestyle, he wanted them to
25 win in the right way, again by being student athletes;

1 not athletes disguised as students. And he had
2 trouble with what he saw at the University in college
3 athletics.

4 And most of all, he had a great love for his
5 family, who are present with us today, his wife and
6 children, daughter-in-law, and of course, Anna Mae,
7 who is one of the members of the family, and Reverend
8 Manning, and so many other friends that are here.

9 He was the kind of man that wanted his
10 family near to him. If it was building homes on the
11 farm so that they would be close to him, that's what
12 would be done. If it was a family cruise so they can
13 all be together, so be it. And of course, anyone who
14 attended the Maryland activities would see the Judge
15 march in, not only along with Mrs. Meloy and the
16 children but the grandchildren, and as the
17 grandchildren got older, their dates and prospective
18 husbands.

19 He was just a very unique man. And we
20 won't see another one like him.

21 JUDGE LEVIN: At this time, I would like to
22 recognize Carmyn Lombardo who will memorialize John
23 Jack Sebastian.

24 MR. LOMBARDO: Thank you, Judge Levin.
25 Honorable Judges and friends of the Prince George's

1 County Bar Association and its members, I must tell
2 you how I arrived here. A few weeks ago, Judge Levin
3 picked up the phone called me up. We were chatting.
4 I was delighted, and I said after a while I was
5 puzzled we were just passing the time of day. I said,
6 "Judge, have I done anything wrong?" He said, "no. I
7 want you to speak for Jack." And I said, "well, I
8 would be delighted."

9 You know, when our dear friends leave us,
10 you recall their uniqueness. And unfortunately, it
11 takes the passing of a friend for you to really
12 appreciate sometimes their uniqueness or how dear they
13 are.

14 In the case of Jack Sebastian, it was his
15 endearing and effusive love of people. He genuinely
16 liked people, people that he had known in his
17 childhood and people that he knew presently and people
18 that he was yet to meet. He had the ability to meet a
19 total stranger, and that person would feel warm and
20 right at home before you know it. Jack would be
21 chatting about where they were from, where they had
22 been. He was a very interesting man.

23 There were certain things about Jack that I
24 didn't know about. He was quite an historian. He was
25 quite a philosopher. He had varied interests that ran

1 the gauntlet from boxing to politics. In fact, he ran
2 for political office one time. And he is one of the
3 few people that an out-of-Stater meets, such as I am,
4 that were actually from the Maryland-District of
5 Columbia area.

6 Jack was born in the Brookland area of
7 Washington, D. C., grew up there, went to Gonzaga High
8 School, fought in the Korean Conflict honorably, and
9 then returned and went on to law school and became a
10 member of the Bar.

11 His zest for life was only increased after
12 he met his lovely wife Jeanne. They soon married, and
13 he became even more hard-working and happy. Jack
14 would rise at 5:00 in the morning, because Jeanne
15 would get up that early. She was a nurse, working at
16 the Washington Hospital Center. And by nine o'clock,
17 Jack would have half a day's work under his belt, and
18 he would be on the phone around ten-thirty or eleven
19 o'clock saying, "hey, what are you doing for lunch?"

20 Always, always the positive side of life is
21 what Jack Sebastian demonstrated to me. He never
22 really dwelled on the negative. He never really
23 dwelled on people who were negative, because they
24 wouldn't be negative very long around him, and he
25 always had a good word for everyone in his enjoyment

1 of life and his enjoyment of the practice of law.

2 He would often enjoy going into bars, which
3 is something, because Jack didn't drink towards the
4 latter part of his life. But he found the barroom
5 atmosphere so congenial that he would have a diet Coke
6 and chat with people. And I thought to myself, what a
7 wonderfully disciplined man who would go into a bar
8 when he knew he couldn't drink and enjoyed drinking at
9 one time.

10 Jack's zest for life didn't leave even
11 toward the end part of his life. In January, he was
12 diagnosed as having incurable cancer, and one doctor
13 gave him one week to live and another doctor gave him
14 one month to live. Well, Jack very matter of factly
15 would pick up the phone when people would call to wish
16 him well and see how he was doing, and he would just
17 very matter of factly say, "well, I have cancer. The
18 doctor says I'm going to die, and one says a week the
19 other says a month, but I'm ready." And he had made
20 peace with himself. He had made peace with his God,
21 and he was ready.

22 Well, that was in January. Now, meanwhile,
23 people are visiting him through the months of February
24 and March and April and May. Jack lived a very fit
25 and healthy life really up until maybe the last two

1 weeks of his life. He passed away on September the
2 9th. And you would go over there to pay your respects
3 to a dear friend who was terminally ill, and you might
4 walk into anything from a small party to a full blown
5 party downstairs in the basement, where the friends
6 would gather and Jack would offer them a drink and
7 turn on the records. And it was just a wonderful
8 thing to see. It is something that I take great
9 comfort from. It is a great example to me. His
10 glass, if it wasn't full, it was only half full. It
11 was never half empty.

12 The final hours of his life were not very
13 comfortable, as one might imagine, and his face was a
14 but contorted. But when he passed away, he had a
15 smile on his face, and that took a lot of effort
16 because his face had been drawn very thin with his
17 illness. And I thought to myself, what a terribly
18 wonderful way for a man to leave this world and go on
19 to the next one. And I imagine he is swapping jokes
20 with Saint Peter right now, and we wish him well.

21 Thank you so much, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE LEVIN: At this time, I would like to
23 recognize Judge Ernest Loveless, who will memorialize
24 Marion E. West.

25 JUDGE LOVELESS: Your Honor, Your Honors,

1 members of the Bar, friends and relatives of those we
2 honor here today, I consider it a distinct privilege
3 to have been selected to eulogize Marion E. West at
4 this annual memorial ceremony.

5 Marion was my friend and my neighbor. He
6 was also a contemporary in the practice of law when
7 there were only 25 or 35 active practicing lawyers
8 here in Prince George's County.

9 I must digress a moment in view of what the
10 previous speakers have mentioned. Yes, Carlton,
11 Walter did give me my first job. I was in my first
12 semester at National University Law School, and I saw
13 a little three by five card that said that title
14 abstracters were needed in Upper Marlboro. And I did
15 not know a deed from a mortgage or anything about an
16 assignment, whatever. In any event, I want to
17 Hyattsville and was led upstairs to this beautiful
18 office and a big desk, and your father was sitting
19 behind there. And I was shaking in my boots.

20 And he and Harley Booth, they had just
21 organized the Associate Title Company. And he said,
22 "well, son, this will give you a good opportunity to
23 learn and so forth." Anyway, I did that for my full
24 term of law school and even after I had graduated.

25 And in view of what Judge Sothoron said, I

1 am glad to have had the experience to have worked
2 under Walter and to know him. And I agree with
3 Richard when he says it's too bad that younger
4 attorneys today do not know those who we are honoring
5 here today.

6 As to Judge Meloy, I was fortunate enough to
7 have served on the Bench with him for the 17 years
8 that Bob Matty spoke of. I loved him, and I missed
9 him when he retired. And he was indeed a settling
10 Judge, but he was a fair Judge.

11 As to Mike Machen, he was sort of a younger
12 generation, but my children greatly enjoyed boating
13 and fishing and talking with him at that resort that
14 was mentioned down at Broom's Island. Things have
15 changed so down there in recent years. When I
16 couldn't wait to go down there, now, I very seldom go,
17 but my children do and they love it. And it all goes
18 back to those connections with the Machen family and
19 the Quinn family. All of us got along very well.

20 As to Marion, he died at the age of 84 on
21 February the 13th of this year at Washington Hospital
22 Center, suffering a heart attack after having
23 undergone long surgery. He was a devoted and loving
24 husband of Myrtle West, who is with us this afternoon,
25 and the father of Sherman West and Richard West.

1 Sherman, as you all know, is a Master for domestic
2 relations cases in this Court.

3 Marion was born in the District of Columbia
4 and graduated from Eastern High School. He was a
5 firefighter in Washington D. C., and while being a
6 fireman, attended Washington College of Law.

7 After graduating from law school and passing
8 the Bar, he opened a real estate and law office in
9 Suitland in the early 1940's. He engaged in the
10 general practice of law with emphasis on family law,
11 real estate, and probate matters. For many years, his
12 son Sherman was his law partner and later Paul Wright
13 became a member of his firm.

14 Paul was my law clerk before he joined
15 Marion, and I had told him at that time that he
16 couldn't be going in a better office.

17 Marion was very energetic in his law
18 practice, always arising early and usually started
19 seeing clients at seven a. m. I wouldn't even be
20 getting up until seven-thirty. He was always diligent
21 in his work, following up on cases as soon as the next
22 step would arise.

23 In walking through his cases, his friendly
24 and affable good morning greetings became an
25 identifying characteristic of his personality. When I

1 had the office where the hall is now that connects
2 these two buildings, he would frequently stick his
3 head in the door as a way of just saying good morning
4 rather than, "hello, how are you?" And I used to
5 think of a little cartoon that appeared many years ago
6 in the Baltimore Sun. It was called Sunny Things by
7 the Beantown Bar, I guess the author was called. And
8 under the caption, there was this print. "It was only
9 a glad good morning as he passed along the way, but it
10 spread the morning's joy over the whole lifelong day."

11 In my opinion the word procrastinate was not
12 in Marion's vocabulary. He liked to be busy every
13 minute and had a seemingly unlimited supply of energy.
14 He was liked by everyone, was ever smiling and easy
15 going, and above all, an absolute and complete
16 gentleman.

17 His primary hobby was gardening and working
18 on his many projects at his home on the Potomac River
19 in Fort Washington.

20 In 1961, he and Myrtle acquired a home in
21 Monsiralt, a small island in the Caribbean, where he
22 spent much time and which he loved. I can understand
23 this love, because my wife and I were fortunate enough
24 to be the guests of Marion and Myrtle for a week on
25 that tropical paradise. They owned the property for

1 21 years and sold it 21 years later. But Marion still
2 visited the island and last went there, I understand,
3 in 1991.

4 He considered his civic responsibility and
5 obligation very highly. In this area, he served as
6 President of the Prince George's County Board of
7 Trade. He was on the Prince George's County Board of
8 Ethics and the Board of Directors of the First
9 National Bank. Since 1960, he was chairman of the
10 Prince George's Board of Property Review and he
11 conducted his regular hearings here in the old
12 courthouse.

13 Marion was a charter member and later
14 president of the South Gate Lions Club. Any of you
15 who are familiar with the Lions Club know that in
16 District 22-C of Prince George's County, South Gate
17 was always the leader. It's sort of like North
18 Carolina in basketball. Everybody wants to get ahead,
19 but they just can't seem to beat out South Gate.

20 His strong sense of civic duty and service
21 to the community was shown by his dedication to that
22 Lions Club. If he was out of the country on vacation
23 during Christmas time, he was known several times to
24 return to help the Lions sell Christmas trees and then
25 go back and continue his vacation.

1 For years, he hosted every Wednesday at his
2 home a group of businessmen and friends for a social
3 afternoon and get-together. This group became known
4 as the Wednesday Club.

5 It can truly be said that he was the image
6 of the man who lived by the side of the road and was a
7 friend to man. His passing was a great loss to the
8 Bar and the community. We miss him, but we will never
9 forget him. He was indeed a good lawyer and a good
10 man. Thank you.

11 JUDGE LEVIN: As the Chairman of this
12 hearing, I'm given the prerogative to close it, but
13 before I close it, I want to make two announcements.
14 The first is that our president will present those
15 five plants that are on the two tables to the
16 respective families of those whom we memorialized.

17 And my second announcement is that I have
18 been a member of this association for 37 years, and
19 I've been coming to this function for 37 years. And I
20 always learn something from listening to these
21 eulogies. And I knew everybody that we've talked
22 about today, either as a colleague or as a practicing
23 lawyer, or someone that I practiced law with. And we
24 shall miss them all.

25 Judge McCullough, I move at this time that

1 the proceedings or that the minutes of these
2 proceedings be transcribed and sent to the families of
3 those whom we have memorialized, and that we adjourn
4 when it is appropriate in their memories and in their
5 honor.

6 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Your motion is granted,
7 Judge Levin. You said you had the privilege of
8 opening and closing. Well, you had the privilege of
9 opening, but I have the privilege of closing.

10 Now, Mr. Whalen, all the Judges of the
11 Bench in Prince George's County are very grateful to
12 the Prince George's County Bar Association and the
13 members of the committee on memorials for the
14 presentation of these memorials today. This is a very
15 fine tradition that we have maintained in Prince
16 George's County for many years; that we pause from our
17 usual adversary matters taking place in the courtroom
18 to honor our departed brothers and pay tribute to
19 their memories.

20 So, this Court, many of whose members have
21 enjoyed a very pleasant and warm personal relationship
22 with those who have been memorialized today, will
23 direct that the memorials presented will be spread
24 upon the permanent records of this Court and that
25 copies will be sent to the families of those

1 colleagues who we are honoring today.

2 And Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our departed
3 brothers, you may now announce the adjournment of this
4 Court.

5 (Thereupon, at 3:45 p. m., the
6 proceedings were concluded, and the Court
7 was adjourned.)

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