

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

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR

HERBERT W. REICHELT

GARY E. GREER

SAUL J. McGRANE

WILFRED M. DYER, JR.

Courtroom 300M

County Courthouse

Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Thursday, November 17, 1994

BARBARA F. CHAPPELL
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

2 . . . The Court convened en banc at 3:00 p.m.
3 there being present Honorable WILLIAM H. McCULLOUGH,
4 Honorable ARTHUR M. AHALT, Honorable JOSEPH S. CASULA,
5 Honorable STEVEN I. PLATT, and Honorable WILLIAM D.
6 MISSOURI . . .

7 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: I would like to welcome you to
8 the Memorial Service that we have every year that is
9 provided for us by the Prince George's County Bar
10 Association. Today we are honoring Herbert W. Reichelt,
11 Gary E. Greer, Saul J. McGrane and Wilfred M. Dyer, Jr.

12 At this time, I would like to recognize Judge
13 Jacob S. Lavin, the Chairman of the Prince George's
14 Memorial Committee. Judge Lavin -- Levin.

15 JUDGE LEVIN: I think I have known you for the
16 past 40 years, and I know you did that deliberately.

17 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: No, I didn't.

18 JUDGE LEVIN: I know you did that deliberately.

19 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: I did not do that
20 deliberately.

21 JUDGE LEVIN: Well, you made two mistakes.

22 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: I know.

23 JUDGE LEVIN: And that was your first one. Your
24 second mistake was not to recognize the President of our
25 Bar Association.

1 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: I thought that you would do
2 that. As Chairman, that is your privilege.

3 JUDGE LEVIN: I now have the honor and pleasure
4 of introducing to this Bench the President of the Prince
5 George's County Bar Association, Diane Leasure.

6 MS. LEASURE: Thank you, Judge Levin.

7 May it please the Court, Chief Judge McCullough,
8 Members of the Circuit Court, Judge Harrell, distinguished
9 guests, family, friends and colleagues of those persons we
10 are here to pay tribute to today, on behalf of the Prince
11 George's County Bar Association, I would like to welcome
12 you to our annual Memorial Service.

13 This is a time when we, as an association,
14 formally pay respect to those of our members who have
15 passed away during this past year.

16 Although there has only been one person
17 designated to speak on behalf of each person, I can assure
18 you that we all have very fond memories of these people,
19 and we certainly will continue to benefit in the years to
20 come not only from everything that they have contributed to
21 the Association but to the profession as a whole.

22 At this time, Judge McCullough, I would like to
23 have Judge Levin come up and introduce the various
24 speakers.

25 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you.

1 JUDGE LEVIN: If it please the Court, the first
2 member to be memorialized is Herbert W. Reichelt, and he
3 will be memorialized by Paul M. Nussbaum.

4 HERBERT W. REICHELT

5 MR. NUSSBAUM: Thank you, Judge Levin.

6 Judges of the Circuit Court, Judge Harrell,
7 Ms. Leasure, Members of the Bar, my friends, my partners,
8 representatives of the Reichelt family, Charles and Jean.
9 I might say that my friend, Catherine Reichelt, is
10 quasi-wintering in Millen, Georgia, this week, and I know
11 that she had many, many qualms about missing today's
12 memorialization of her husband. At the same time, I want to
13 say once, on behalf of everyone in this room, I think
14 Mrs. Reichelt deserves to continue her good health and be
15 with her son, Herbert.

16 I have known Herb Reichelt for a long time. We
17 met almost 45 years ago when we were living in Kaywood
18 Garden Apartments. My wife and I met him when he was
19 knocking on an apartment door for his campaign for the
20 mayoralty for the Town of Mount Rainier. He was the
21 all-knowing Democrat of Mount Rainier, and I was the new
22 kid on the block.

23 It seems as though from that day forward Herb and
24 I developed a close relationship, first as a constituent of
25 his in Mount Rainier, then as a friend, as a frequent

1 visitor to his home, as fellow lawyers, as organizers of
2 the law firm, as a law partner, and altogether a confidant
3 for many years until his death on December 8, 1993.

4 Judge Levin authorized me for five to seven
5 minutes to talk about a former law partner. While I don't
6 dare appeal that demand or judicial edict from the Judge, I
7 must say to you that it is pretty doggone tough to talk in
8 this limited period about someone one has known so long.

9 I will say this to you, however, that if we as
10 human beings are a fortiori ascribed to remain on this
11 planet for but a short span of time, Herbert's life should
12 be celebrated when one considers that he lived into the
13 middle of his ninth decade, lived in reasonably good health
14 until the last few years of his life, that he was married
15 for 59 years, that he had two sons and five grandchildren
16 and a following that literally was by the thousands.

17 He grew up in the District of Columbia. He moved
18 to Mount Rainier where he lived until 1971 when they sold
19 their home. He was the son of a plumber. Herb, himself,
20 became a licensed master plumber, and don't think for one
21 moment he didn't take a boat load of kidding from me and
22 probably everybody else at that time.

23 He was a graduate of Columbus Law School, which
24 ultimately became Catholic University, and he entered into
25 the real estate practice in a small office in Mount Rainier

1 in 1932, where he was local counsel for what was one time
2 known as the Home Loan Corporation.

3 He spent two terms as Mayor of the City of Mount
4 Rainier, 1949 and 1955 to be exact, and then ran
5 successfully for the County Commissioner position of Prince
6 George's County for which he was elected for one succeeding
7 term and devoted eight years to that job, six of which as
8 Chairman of the County Commission.

9 Without trying to be the old man of the mountain
10 here, I will say to those of you who do not know this, and
11 to those of us who lived a pretty good career under it,
12 there was a time when Prince George's County was governed
13 by five duly elected officials, only one of whom was a
14 full-time member and everyone else was a part-time
15 Commissioner. Herb was one of the five and then one of the
16 one, the only one, as a matter of fact, who had an office
17 in the courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

18 Herb was a devout Lutheran, a member of the
19 Trinity Lutheran Church in Mount Rainier, a Masonic Master
20 of the Westgate Masonic Lodge, a past president of the
21 Mount Rainier/Brentwood Lions Club, and a Lion
22 International Director or Governor of District 2C. He was
23 a past president and member of the Maryland Municipal
24 League, and although very few of us may remember the
25 birthing of what is now the monolith NationsBank, he was at

1 one time a director of the successor to Prince George's
2 Bank and Trust which, if I remember, was called Suburban
3 National Bank and became Sovran Bank.

4 Herb was a person who loved life. He loved to
5 kid. He loved to be kidded. Perhaps the one unique
6 experience or advantage that I had over others, certainly
7 in our law firm, was that Herb and I were fluent speakers
8 of the German language. Whenever the occasion arose where
9 we wanted to talk about one of the lawyers, one of the
10 partners, one of the staff members in the firm, we found a
11 means of communicating that irritated and aggravated
12 everybody else, but it was fun, and I think we both enjoyed
13 it.

14 Herb had the ultimate concern for the welfare of
15 his fellow man, and when he could, he did, whether it was
16 as an individual resident of Mount Rainier trying to help
17 someone or ultimately as Chairman of the Board of County
18 Commissioners. I can honestly say that he was a man who
19 dedicated his entire life to principles of honor and
20 integrity and honesty.

21 In closing, I was trying to think of various
22 clever things that I could say. But the truth of the
23 matter is my young law partner Dan LaPlaca said it all in
24 the eulogy that he wrote for the Prince George's Bar Letter
25 right after Herb died, and I want to read to you the last

1 paragraph of the eulogy, and in a manner of speaking I
2 think that's all that needs to be said about Mr. Reichelt.

3 Those who knew Herb, or Mr. Reichelt as most
4 people called him, will recall his hearty laugh, his too
5 firm handshake and the way he always answered how are you
6 with I'm excellent. To him everyone was a young man or a
7 young lady, and he had the remarkable knack for remembering
8 something about everyone he met. He loved to tell stories
9 of the old days, although he outlived most of the people
10 who populated his tales. Dead at 85, Herbert Reichelt
11 truly was excellent.

12 And thank you.

13 JUDGE LEVIN: The next attorney to be
14 memorialized is Gary Greer, and he will be memorialized by
15 Carlton M. Green.

16 GARY E. GREER

17 MR. GREEN: Your Honors, ladies and gentlemen, it
18 is my honor to provide this memorial today to Gary. Gary
19 died at age 47 on January the 16th, 1994. He was survived
20 by his wife, Mary Ann, and his two sons, Matthew and
21 Michael, a sister Donna Carpenter, and his father George
22 Greer.

23 Gary and I were life-long friends. We grew up
24 together in College Park, along with Monty Ahalt, John
25 Calabrese, Billy Knight, John Buchanan, all of whom chose

1 law as a profession.

2 Gary married Mary Ann and lived in Millersville.

3 He had offices in Anne Arundel County and Hyattsville where
4 he spent most of his legal career associated with Carroll
5 Beatty. He was a devoted father to his two sons and a
6 coach of their boys club.

7 We both decided to practice law in Prince
8 George's County when we became lawyers. We had cases where
9 we represented opposing sides. From time to time we would
10 refer cases back and forth to each other, and we always had
11 the understanding that if either of us needed help, the
12 other was just a phone call away.

13 All of us take our good health for granted.

14 While in the prime of his life, Gary suffered a brain
15 tumor. There was a rush to the hospital in August of 1989.
16 He had surgery and thereafter was totally incapacitated.
17 When Gary became incapacitated, I was asked to complete his
18 unfinished cases.

19 In thinking about what to say to you today, I
20 thought about what one might want to be said about his
21 legal career. Consider Gary's role as one person in the
22 legal profession. Lincoln grasped this concept as he
23 composed the Gettysburg Address when the National Cemetery
24 was dedicated in 1864 on the Battlefield of Gettysburg.

25 His words were, "The world will little note nor

1 long remember what we say here, but it could never forget
2 what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be
3 dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought
4 here have thus far so nobly advanced."

5 As you look around this courtroom, it is a
6 battlefield used on a daily basis by most lawyers and
7 judges in a noble work. The work is the professional
8 commitment to just relationships through law.

9 Gary was in the trenches with the rest of us,
10 mountains of paperwork, time limits upon time limits to get
11 the work completed, the competition to do the best job we
12 could do, and in bringing all we know and concentrating our
13 efforts to make the best possible presentation we could on
14 behalf of our client.

15 As a former president of Catholic University put
16 it, the qualities demanded of a good lawyer can be listed
17 as trust, charity, wisdom, fidelity, compassion, truth,
18 equity, fairness, service, integrity and honesty. Gary
19 exhibited each of these qualities in this court in every
20 case he handled.

21 So, how do I say he should be remembered by this
22 Court and those of us here today? As one who fought here
23 on this battlefield to advance just relationships under the
24 law, to have people treated fairly, equally and with
25 compassion, and along the way he earned the respect and the

1 friendship of those who came in contact with him.

2 There is no doubt in my mind that in his
3 professional career he nobly advanced the work that the
4 legal profession is all about. For those of us who knew
5 him well, he will be missed. But his good work in this
6 court can and should be an example to us all. He has
7 supplied us a working demonstration of how law was intended
8 to be practiced by members of our profession.

9 Your Honor, I respectfully request that these
10 remarks be kept among the permanent records of the court.

11 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Mr. Green, your motion is
12 granted.

13 JUDGE LEVIN: The next attorney to be
14 memorialized is Saul J. McGrane, and he will be
15 memorialized by Anthony M. Keder.

16 SAUL J. MCGRANE

17 MR. KEDER: Thank you, Judge Levin.

18 Members of the Circuit Court, Judge Harrell, our
19 President, colleagues, family and friends, my name is
20 Anthony Keder, and I am here to give a short eulogy on Saul
21 J. McGrane.

22 I was an associate in his law practice for the
23 past ten years. For those of you who didn't know Saul, he
24 practiced in Hyattsville. It was composed mostly of
25 high-volume, relatively straight-forward cases. It was

1 DWI, District Court, bankruptcy and domestic, and that was
2 the basic type of cases that he had.

3 He had been practicing law in Hyattsville for
4 about 35 years. During the course of those years, he had
5 been associated with other partners from time to time, but
6 it was his firm that he had built up with his client base.

7 He worked very hard at the practice of law. He
8 was in his office six-and-a-half days a week. Over the
9 past 18 to 20 years, he had reached a point where he stayed
10 in the office and his younger associates did the court work
11 so many of the younger Members of the Bar didn't know Saul
12 personally, but I saw him on a daily basis.

13 I think that the one characteristic that captures
14 Saul the most is that he was so beloved by his clients. He
15 had a magic touch at reassuring them. Clients would come
16 in, talk to him for a few minutes, and they would leave the
17 room as though he was a friend that they had known for many
18 years.

19 I cannot count the number of times that I heard
20 someone walk out of his office, Saul would have his arms
21 around their shoulders, and the person would be saying, oh,
22 thank you, Mr. McGrane, you've made me feel so much better.
23 Whatever their problem was, whether it was bankruptcy,
24 criminal, they would say, oh, Mr. McGrane, you've put me at
25 ease, and then Mr. McGrane and the rest of the firm would

1 try to carry out and do a good job for the clients.

2 Saul often had a soft spot for the clients that
3 came in with problems. There was one elderly couple that
4 came in to consult him on a bankruptcy, and their situation
5 was so bad that they were eating dog food. Saul ended up
6 giving them some money, and they left the office and never
7 did file the bankruptcy.

8 Saul passed away in February. In the first few
9 weeks after that happened, calls, of course, came in for
10 him. People would express great grief upon learning of his
11 sudden passing. Many times on further conversation with
12 them, I found out that they had only been in and talked to
13 him for a half an hour, and they sounded genuinely grief
14 stricken saying he was such a nice person.

15 And, so, that's the type of touch that Saul had
16 with people. Many people would drive past 50 lawyers for
17 some relatively simple matter simply because they talked to
18 him over the phone and they liked the way that he spoke
19 with them over the phone.

20 To tell you a little more about Saul's
21 background, he was born in 1933 in Baltimore. He was also
22 raised in Baltimore. He married his wife, Gloria, in the
23 '50s. He had two fine daughters, Sharrin and Barbara, and
24 he also had a granddaughter.

25 He is also survived by his mother, his brother

1 and sister, and survived by his faithful companion of 12
2 years, Ms. Fay Lawson.

3 The picture of Saul as someone who is a
4 workaholic at the office, though, is not at all accurate.
5 Saul worked hard, but he did not believe in all work and no
6 play. When he went on vacation, he generally went far and
7 went out of the country. He went someplace far and he did
8 not call the office. He also had a little getaway on Kent
9 Island, and he would go down there during the nice weather
10 for one afternoon and evening a week, sometimes two if he
11 could, and he didn't have a phone there.

12 As was said about a previous member of the Bar,
13 he loved life. Saul was energetic, had a great sense of
14 humor. He loved life. He enjoyed talking about war
15 stories, about how the practice of law had been in the
16 county in the late '50s and the '60s, told stories about
17 interesting judges who had since retired, and that type of
18 thing. It was something that he enjoyed greatly.

19 Saul McGrane had friends from every walk of life.
20 He was not a person who had an appeal with intellectuals,
21 with lawyers, with any one particular group. This was
22 evident from the variety of people who were at the memorial
23 service for Saul. At that service there were judges.

24 Saul had in the past represented the Fraternal
25 Order of Police, had formed life-long friendships with some

1 police officers through that representation. There were
2 police officers present, bondsmen, there were judges, there
3 were other lawyers, many, many clients present, there were
4 custodial workers. There were just all types of
5 individuals there to pay tribute to Saul.

6 One tribute in particular happened a few days
7 after Saul had passed away. This was wintertime. Someone
8 walked in. I saw he was dressed in a T-shirt, had tattoos,
9 he had a scar on his face. It took me a moment to
10 recognize him as a former client. I will call him Jimmy.

11 So Jimmy comes in and he says I've just heard the
12 news, and he says to me where is he buried, where is he
13 buried, and this man had tears in his eyes. This was a
14 client who had just got out of prison a couple months
15 before, and he looked as though he owned his cell block in
16 prison, and he was standing there with tears in his eyes,
17 and he said I want to lay flowers on his grave.

18 So, we will all miss Saul McGrane. He leaves
19 behind this legacy of being someone that was concerned for
20 his clients, someone who did a good job for them and
21 someone who was liked by everyone that knew him. In my
22 personal dealings in ten years with Saul, we had virtually
23 no friction in our own business dealings. In conclusion
24 and summary, then, Saul was a great guy that we will all
25 miss.

1 JUDGE LEVIN: The last lawyer to be memorialized
2 is Wilfred M. Dyer, Jr. He will be memorialized by his
3 son, Andrew W. Dyer.

4

5 WILFRED M. DYER, JR.

6 MR. DYER: Thank you. It is an honor to be
7 invited here to say a few words today about my father,
8 Wilfred Dyer, who was known to many of you as Will.

9 My father was born in 1912 in Washington and
10 raised in Washington. He attended law school at National
11 University at night. National later became part of George
12 Washington University. He passed the Bar in 1939, and
13 began his practice of law under the name of Welch and Dyer,
14 which had offices in Washington at that time. Later the
15 firm became Welch, Dyer and Lancaster and moved to
16 Hyattsville.

17 In the early '60s, he left the firm and became a
18 sole practitioner with offices in Silver Hill, and in the
19 late '60s he moved his office to Clinton, where we
20 presently have it. His practice was primarily in the area
21 of real estate involving litigation in that area, and also
22 real estate settlements.

23 His other main professional involvement was with
24 First National Bank of Southern Maryland. For many years
25 he was a member of the Board of Directors of that bank and

1 later became Chairman of that Board.

2 But primarily he was a family man. He spent much
3 of his time and tried to spend as much free time that he
4 had with my mother and my brother and I. At that time we
5 lived down on the bay at Fairhaven. My mother still does.
6 He thoroughly enjoyed the bay and fishing and boating and
7 all of the activities that go with it.

8 I started my practice with him after my admission
9 to the Bar in 1972, and we practiced under the name of Dyer
10 and Dyer, and he was active in that practice until about
11 five years ago when he retired.

12 I've had the unusual relationship with him, not
13 only the father/son relationship but also he was my mentor
14 in my legal practice. If you can all remember your first
15 years as a new lawyer, most often or not you felt like you
16 hadn't a clue as to what you were doing, and the advice and
17 counsel of an older, more experienced lawyer was a thing of
18 value, and he provided that to me.

19 So, just as in my youth he had helped me through
20 my trying adolescent years, he provided the guidance for me
21 in our years of practice together. And while as a teenager
22 you never really fully appreciate your father's advice and
23 comments, as an adult, however, his advice and guidance was
24 something that was not only valued but I was able to
25 appreciate it for what it was at the time that he gave it.

1 Of all the stories that he used to tell me about
2 practicing law, I guess it's his early years here in Upper
3 Marlboro were the ones that I seemed to enjoy the most.

4 In the late '30s and the early '40s, he spent
5 most of his time here at the courthouse in the Land Records
6 room examining titles. At that time, Land Records was not
7 nearly as crowded as it is today, and he worked alongside
8 such people as Oscar Duley, Pete Clagett, Bill O'Keefe,
9 Suzanne Hall and others. That was back before we had any
10 of these grand additions to the courthouse, and that was
11 back when the bench was Judge Marbury.

12 He used to tell of going to lunch at one of the
13 local eateries and catching a game of pool with Pete
14 Clagett before going back to work in Land Records
15 afterwards. From the way he treasured those memories, it
16 appears that that was a very enjoyable part of his practice
17 throughout the years.

18 Marlboro was a lot different then, and a lot has
19 changed over the years; however, what seems not to have
20 changed is the quality of our Bar and Bench. We've managed
21 to maintain that civility in our conduct toward each other
22 and towards the clerks and the other people that make this
23 courthouse run.

24 It's a joy I know he felt and I feel to practice
25 in Prince George's County where you know most of the faces

1 will be friendly, and also where you find that certain
2 niceness that is often lacking in other courthouses that we
3 visit. I share my father's feeling about this Bar, and I
4 appreciate this opportunity to make these remarks.

5 JUDGE LEVIN: Judge McCullough, before we
6 conclude these ceremonies, I want to direct the speakers,
7 who spoke so eloquently, to see that the respective
8 evergreen that is located on the table is given to the
9 appropriate family member.

10 These lawyers whom we have memorialized today
11 walked the streets of Marlboro. They were in the corridors
12 of this courthouse many times.

13 Judge McCullough, I, therefore, respectfully move
14 that this Court adjourn in memory of their departed
15 brethren.

16 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: President Leasure, Judge
17 Levin, and, ladies and gentlemen, the Judges of the Prince
18 George's County Court are grateful to the Prince George's
19 County Bar Association and the members of the committee for
20 the presentation of these memorials today and making the
21 arrangements for this ceremony. It is a very fine
22 tradition that we have maintained in Prince George's County
23 for many, many years. We pause from the usual matters
24 taking place in the courtroom, and we honor our departed
25 brethren and pay tribute to their memories.

1 Many of you have enjoyed a very pleasant and warm
2 personal relationship with those we have memorialized
3 today. The Court will direct that the memorials presented
4 will be spread upon the permanent records of the court, and
5 that copies will be sent to the families of those
6 colleagues we are honoring today.

7 In conclusion, Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our
8 departed brothers, you may now announce adjournment of this
9 court.

10 (Whereupon, at 3:38 p.m., the proceedings were
11 concluded and the Court was adjourned.)

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