

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

2
3
4 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

5 MEMORIAL SERVICES

6 FOR

7 THOMAS A. FARRINGTON

8 GEORGE T. D. BURROUGHS, SR.

9 JAMES G. BOSS

10 ALFRED S. FRIED

11 BOND L. HOLFORD

12 PAUL M. NUSSBAUM

13 JOHN F. LILLARD, JR.

14 SYLVANIA W. WOODS, SR.

15 SAMUEL J. DeBLASIS

16 ROBERT A. SCHMUHL

17
18 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

19 3:00 P.M.

20 CEREMONIAL COURTROOM 201D

21 COURTHOUSE

22 UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

23
24 CHANTAL M. GENEUS, RPR

25 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

I N D E X

	TRIBUTES IN HONOR OF:	PAGE:
1		
2		
3		
4		
5	Thomas A. Farrington	5
6		
7	George T. D. Burroughs, Sr.	14
8		
9	James G. Boss	20
10		
11	Alfred S Fried	26
12		
13	Bond L. Holford	30
14		
15	Paul M. Nussbaum	35
16		
17	John F. Lillard, Jr.	39
18		
19	Sylvania W. Woods, Sr.	43
20		
21	Samuel J. DeBlasis	49
22		
23	Robert A. Schmuhl	57
24		
25		

P R O C E E D I N G S

...The Court convened en banc at 3:00 p.m.,
the Honorable Robert J. Woods, Chief Judge, presiding...

JUDGE WOODS: Today we gather, as we have for many
years, to honor our colleagues, associates and friends who
have died. The Court is honored to welcome the family,
friends and guests of those who we are about to remember
today.

Today we are paying tribute to Thomas A.
Farrington, George T. D. Burroughs, Sr., James G. Boss,
Alfred S. Fried, Judge Bond L. Holford, Paul M. Nussbaum,
John F. Lillard, Jr., Judge Sylvania W. Woods, Sr., Judge
Samuel J. DeBlasis and Robert A. Schmuhl.

At this time, the Court is pleased to introduce
Samuel J. DeBlasis, II, President of the Prince George's
County Bar Association.

MR. DEBLASIS: Good afternoon, ladies and
gentlemen. My name is Samuel DeBlasis, and I am the
President of the Prince George's County Bar Association.
Those who are here today know, regardless of the
circumstances, that there is a time for all of us. There is
no good time, there is no right time, but the sad reality is
that death comes to us all.

The Prince George's County Bar Association holds
this annual memorial service in an effort to honor the

1 memory of those of our members that have passed in the
2 immediate preceding year.

3 You will notice, however, that there are some
4 members who have passed very recently, such as attorney Fred
5 Joseph, who do not appear on our list today because of his
6 very recent passing. Mr. Joseph will be memorialized in the
7 next annual service.

8 I find myself in an unenviable position here
9 today, because I have lost my own father. My father was
10 also a member of this Bar Association for over a period of
11 40 years. My dad was also president of this Bar Association
12 in 1965, and, as you heard from Judge Woods, he is one of
13 the members that we are here to honor today.

14 Because of that recent experience, I believe that
15 I am in a unique position to say that the family members
16 will more value the kind words, the prayers, the
17 condolences, and the thoughts of all of our friends, our
18 co-workers and our fellow professionals in helping us deal
19 with our sorrow.

20 But as I have also learned as time goes on, that
21 deep sorrow is replaced with the fond memories of the
22 smiles, and the laughter, and personalities and the personal
23 accomplishments of those we have lost.

24 This memorial service is a vehicle by which our
25 association can highlight the careers and acknowledge the

1 accomplishments of our departed members, those careers and
2 accomplishments that we family members are so proud of.

3 It is a means by which we can recognize the
4 contributions of these members to our profession and our Bar
5 Association, but it is also an effort to help the families
6 fill the void with memories of happy and proud moments.

7 On behalf of myself, my family, and the other
8 families that are here today, I would like to thank the
9 Prince George's County Bar Association, Judge Levin, and all
10 of those members who are here today who are helping us
11 strengthen the memory of our loved ones.

12 To the family members here today, on behalf of the
13 Prince George's County Bar Association, I hope that this
14 service is of assistance to you as you travel down the long
15 road toward accepting life's sad reality.

16 I can't do anything without something in front of
17 me here. I would like to now introduce the Chair of the
18 Memorial Committee, Judge Jacob S. Levin, retired.

19 JUDGE LEVIN: The first presenter will be Thomas
20 W. 'Tad' Farrington.

21 MR. FARRINGTON: Forgive me if I don't use the
22 mike. I, like my father, can't stand still for two minutes,
23 so I will be pacing as I do the speech.

24 About a month ago I was asked by Judge Levin to
25 speak on my dad's behalf at this tribute, and I was honored

1 for the offer to do so, and I readily accepted it. I
2 thought, having given his eulogy, this would be an easy
3 event for me to talk at; however, I found myself at 12:00
4 this afternoon sitting at my desk with absolutely nothing to
5 say. I hadn't written anything. I had tried but didn't
6 know where to go or what to talk about.

7 I will tell you that no tribute I can give him
8 will equal the tribute that he has been given by his friends
9 and colleagues since his death in their support and their
10 kind words, and their encouragement to me and both my
11 natural and stepfamilies. We all thank you for that.

12 I personally want to thank a couple of people, Tom
13 Smith, Peter O'Malley, Bruce Marcus and John Lally, who have
14 helped me personally in giving me advice and encouragement
15 on where to go and what to do after the passing of my
16 father.

17 I also want to thank Michael Von Diezelski and
18 Gabriel Christian, who have given me both a great deal of
19 friendship and encouragement, and have treated me honorably
20 and professionally in these last couple of months.

21 Like all of us, the events in my father's life did
22 a great deal to shape who he was. One of the events that he
23 talked about while I was growing up that taught him the
24 value of looking at evidence from all areas, and certainly
25 helped him in his trial practice, was an event that happened

1 to him as a small child.

2 At about ten or twelve years of age, he and his
3 brother, standing at the second floor bedroom, his bedroom,
4 decided to take a rifle that they had and take a shot at
5 their neighbor's mailbox. So they aimed down and took a
6 shot and put a bullet through the neighbor's mailbox.

7 Well, the neighbor on the receiving end of that,
8 looking at the evidence from a different angle, came down to
9 the mailbox and drew a bead between the first hole, the
10 entry hole, and the exit hole. I don't know if it's beyond
11 a reasonable doubt, but certainly by a preponderance of the
12 evidence he was able to determine that the shot came from my
13 father's window. The punishment was just, the punishment
14 was swift, and it was never forgotten.

15 My father grew up in a very competitive
16 environment. His father was the athletic director for GW
17 University and was a twelve-letter man in college himself.

18 The neighborhood was the backyard of my
19 grandparents' house. My grandparents' house was a
20 neighborhood playground. There was a tennis court when they
21 wanted to play tennis, a full badminton court, which some of
22 you may laugh at, but if you have ever played competitive
23 badminton, it was a half court, and a full basketball court.

24 My father was the quarterback for high school
25 football at BCC. He was the top amateur athlete at William

1 and Mary, and he was a full scholarship basketball player to
2 William and Mary.

3 He also recently took joy in telling me his degree
4 of competitiveness and bravado by telling me about an
5 article that he read. This may not be the most politically
6 correct of speeches or arguments, but it explained that the
7 three professions in which men with the greatest level of
8 testosterone were often found was the military, sports or
9 trial attorneys.

10 Being an airborne ranger and a full scholarship
11 basketball player and, as many of you know, a great trial
12 attorney, he took a tremendous amount of pride in having
13 accomplished a high level of achievement in all three of
14 those areas.

15 Basketball, as I said, was very important to my
16 father, any of you who were very close to him know that
17 throughout his career he dreamed in terms of basketball. If
18 his career was on a plateau or he wasn't sure what the next
19 step would be, he would be walking around the campus of
20 William and Mary in plain clothes looking for the gym. He
21 wasn't sure where it was at.

22 If things were going well but not perfect, he
23 would be on the basketball team, he would be playing. But
24 he wouldn't be out there very often, and he would be missing
25 some shots. If things were going really well, he would be

1 in the starting lineup, and he would be hitting everything.

2 This went with him for his entire life, but he
3 didn't have any problem laughing at himself in most
4 occasions, and even in basketball.

5 When my dad was playing college ball, he had the
6 opportunity to play on the William and Mary team that broke
7 West Virginia's 58 game winning streak. That's a winning
8 streak that was held primarily because Jerry West -- the NBA
9 basketball player Jerry West who was a star for West
10 Virginia -- he broke that 58 game winning streak, and my dad
11 was ordered to guard Jerry West throughout that entire game.
12 He was very proud of the fact that he was able to score, I
13 believe it was, eight points, may have been ten, against
14 Mr. West.

15 He would sometimes tell you, though, or some
16 people in sort of a mock bravado, he would let you all know
17 that he held Jerry West to his numbers in that game. Then
18 after you may or may not have been done being impressed by
19 that, he would then remark, I just want to let you know
20 Jerry West's jersey number was 42.

21 Dad was also competitive in speaking. He, because
22 of his father, was a member of a number of clubs, the
23 Kiwanis, Shriners and VFW Hall, among others; was engaged in
24 public speaking forums and debates and competitions ever
25 since he was a young boy, and he won a number of regional

1 and local competitions.

2 In fact, he loved public speaking, and I'm sure
3 many of you already know that, having seen him in the
4 courtroom and seeing him involved in politics. He was
5 somewhat of a fish in water when it came to that.

6 In fact, his father -- my grandfather -- once told
7 him he thought my dad's idea of heaven was probably a room
8 alone with one giant ear to be able to speak to, but he
9 loved the art and drama of it.

10 He loved big speakers. He would often watch
11 public speakers on TV with the sound down just to watch
12 their mannerisms, how they would move to very small and very
13 large crowds and excite the crowd and get them to understand
14 what was going on in the courtroom, or get them to
15 understand wherever they were.

16 He was an active speaker for MICPEL. He loved to
17 impart his knowledge to associates, many of whom now have
18 become senior partners in some of the more prestigious firms
19 in Prince George's County.

20 I have been told by a number of you, since my
21 father's passing, that he has taught a couple of lessons in
22 the courtroom's well.

23 I will tell you, one of his lessons was to write
24 big, keep a short outline, and try not to look at it too
25 much. I, of course, am probably doing that more than I need

1 to be, but since I wrote this at 12:00, I won't let it go to
2 anyone but myself.

3 But he was not only a competitive speaker and a
4 competitive person, he was also a very intelligent man. I
5 should let you know that he missed being a member of Phi
6 Beta Kappa by one C that he obtained in an ROTC class when
7 he was in college.

8 He obtained that C in ROTC because the teacher
9 would not allow him to make up a test, a test that he had to
10 miss because of a basketball game that he had to go to or he
11 would have lost his scholarship. Had he been able to take
12 that test, in all likelihood he would have been a member of
13 Phi Beta Kappa in William and Mary.

14 After attending William and Mary, my dad went to
15 Yale Law School. I believe between William and Mary and
16 Yale Law School that is when his intellectual curiosity was
17 opened.

18 I mentioned this before when I gave his eulogy.
19 After his death, I was in his home, and I was looking
20 through the library that's there, and I started counting the
21 books on his shelves. I estimated there were approximately
22 2,000 books on his shelves, all of which -- or almost all of
23 which had been read, many of which had been read ten and
24 fifteen times. Some have numerous underlining, some pen,
25 different pens, some pages you can't read. Some books have

1 been replaced. He needed a new copy just so he can read
2 them. I'm not including the rereads, not including the
3 books he had lost, not including the books he had borrowed.

4 If he had just read those 2,000 books, my father
5 would have read four books a month every month from the time
6 he turned 20 until the time he died at 59 years of age.
7 These were not just fiction books, easy reading books. My
8 father rarely read any of those books. He read plays of
9 Shakespeare, Eugene O'Neill, the histories as written by
10 Winston Churchill and the Durants, the philosophy of
11 Aristotle, John Locke and Bertrand Russell. And, yes,
12 occasionally a book by Woody Allen and Gary Larson's Far
13 Side.

14 I have not spoken much about his professional
15 achievements. I think they have been spoken about in the
16 Washington Post article that was very well written about him
17 and by Judge Smith's wonderful article in November's P. G.
18 County Journal, which I thank him for.

19 But for those of you who may not be aware, I will
20 list a few of them. In the 1970s, my father was an active
21 member of the Democratic Party, very active member; Chairman
22 of the Prince George's County Democratic Party; Founder of
23 Ploughman and Fisherman, a fundraiser in Prince George's
24 County. He was a Democratic Committee man for the state,
25 and he was the chair of various gubernatorial campaigns in

1 Prince George's County, campaigns for numerous sitting
2 judges, among others.

3 He was also -- and I have said this before, and
4 this is something of which I am proud -- he was one of the
5 first members of the NAACP in Prince George's County, and I
6 don't say first white member, first black member. He was
7 one of the first members back when there were five or six or
8 seven people in the early part of the '60s.

9 He was also active in the community. He helped
10 establish and work with the Boys and Girls Club, Marlboro
11 Boys and Girls Club, and raise money for them.

12 He coached numerous football teams and basketball
13 teams when I was growing up and, lately, was able to coach
14 my half brother, his son, Max, in his five-year-old soccer
15 league just recently before he passed away.

16 I was told recently from talking to Bruce Marcus
17 that dad grew up at a time in which there were enough people
18 within the community, legal and political community, but it
19 was still small enough for men to become giants and giant
20 killers, and that's hard to do now.

21 He said to me, after we were sitting there
22 talking, one of his last words as I walked out of his
23 office, Tad, I want you to know that your father was a giant
24 killer. I think it would have been that way, and I think
25 that he was certainly one of my heroes.

1 I think that in this community he will be missed
2 for his legal knowledge and his skill, and his enjoyment of
3 life and his enjoyment of the people that were around him.
4 I believe the community will miss him. I know I and his
5 family will miss him.

6 Thank you.

7 JUDGE LEVIN: George T. D. Burroughs, Sr., will be
8 remembered by Jess Joseph Smith.

9 Don't we have some places for you all to sit down?
10 All lawyers are entitled to a seat. All members of the
11 family are entitled to a seat.

12 Where is the bailiff? That is all members of the
13 Bar Association.

14 MR. SMITH: Relatives and members of the
15 judiciary, and friends and guests of the deceased, I would
16 like to tell you today about a guy, a gentleman, who was
17 truly a legal giant in Prince George's County, a gentleman
18 by the name of George T. D. Burroughs, Sr. Of course,
19 everyone knew him as George.

20 He was basically a fixture around here. He was
21 born on a farm in Croom in 1905. He graduated from Marlboro
22 High School in 1929. He graduated from the University of
23 Maryland in -- I'm sorry, in 1929 he graduated from the
24 University of Maryland. In 1932 he graduated from
25 Georgetown University.

1 He began practicing law downtown in Washington,
2 D. C., and later moved his office and his practice to Upper
3 Marlboro where he remained for over 50 years, retiring in
4 1985.

5 Now, I guess it was last year he died at the age
6 of 91 in a local facility. George, as you probably know,
7 had a very active trial practice. He represented many
8 noteworthy individuals, businesses and criminal defendants,
9 municipal corporations, the Town of Upper Marlboro, Forest
10 Heights, Prince George's County Board of Elections
11 Supervisors.

12 He was Secretary/Treasurer of the County War
13 Memorial, the National Farm Loan Association for Prince
14 George's, Calvert and Charles Counties.

15 One of his accomplishments certainly was in the
16 financial arena where he was a director of at that time it
17 was Suburban Bank, Sovran and Suburban, and the predecessor
18 of NationsBank that is today. I guess it is the second,
19 third, fourth largest bank in the entire country.

20 He was active, certainly, in the Prince George's
21 County Bar Association. He was president in 1959. He, of
22 course, was a member of most of the organizations: The
23 Maryland State Bar Association, the D. C. Bar Association,
24 American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, and a
25 Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation.

1 His wife, Nannie Gwinn, predeceased him in 1988.
2 His family who are here today are his son George, Jr.; he
3 has two daughters, Nancy Burroughs of Fairfax, California,
4 and Laura Burroughs Hinz of Upper Marlboro; a son-in-law,
5 Terry Hinz; and two grandchildren.

6 I don't really have the familiarity with George as
7 Tad, of course, did because when I came on the scene, George
8 was 60 years old. I practiced law with him for 16 years.
9 We had an awful lot of fun doing it, fun in the courtroom
10 and elsewhere.

11 I will never forget the time when George and I had
12 a case. It was a domestic relations matter in one of the
13 courtrooms. We walked in the courtroom and, lo and behold,
14 I recognized the other lawyer. The other lawyer I had met
15 on a midshipman cruise while I was at the Naval Academy, and
16 he was an ROTC midshipman. So we went outside and
17 reminisced about all the paint we chipped off the deck and
18 repainted.

19 I was out there for a little while, and George
20 stuck his head out -- there were several other attorneys
21 standing around at the same time. George stuck his head out
22 and said, you try your case in the courtroom, not out in the
23 hall. So I heard that several times from other lawyers over
24 the years.

25 When George did come on the legal scene, the road

1 that you have out here, of course, was a dirt road. This
2 was quite some time ago. This courthouse was here, but
3 there have probably been five or six additions since that
4 time.

5 As you sit here today, you could almost see the
6 Marlboro Racetrack where George worked as a young exercise
7 boy when he was growing up, and I'm sure he had fun doing
8 that.

9 His life was as exciting as can be when you grow
10 up on a farm. There are a lot of chores, a lot of work that
11 you have to do.

12 The racetrack affinity, I guess, stayed with
13 George pretty much all of his life. He was a habitue of the
14 racetrack, and I was a person who went with him several
15 times, and he was very good at it. If I could just stand by
16 him, hide and hear who he was betting on, then I would go to
17 one of the other windows, because he was putting a little
18 more money on the horse than I always did, but he always
19 won. He did a good job on that.

20 George practiced law so long in Prince George's
21 County that he is really a part of the history of Prince
22 George's County.

23 George was an avid golfer. He had a little luck
24 at playing golf too. One time we took our families, our
25 spouses to Bermuda. The girls went shopping and did

1 something, and we went out and played golf. Well, George
2 would hit a nice long drive. I would dribble it off the
3 green, and I would probably have two or three hits before I
4 got it to where his first ball was. He would hit a second
5 one. I can remember he sliced one. It was like it was
6 going out of sight. It hit an apartment building that was
7 near the green and bounced off the apartment building,
8 landed, and rolled within about two feet of the pin.

9 Now, had it been me, if I could have hit it that
10 far, it would have gone through a window and injured
11 somebody. George had a little bit of luck, and certainly he
12 deserved it.

13 The regret that I have is not being able to take
14 George Burroughs and fly him and his wife to the Kentucky
15 Derby because George was always interested in racing, and he
16 certainly watched the Kentucky Derby. This is when I can
17 remember to put my landing gear down, but I finally
18 convinced him of that after asking him for probably, oh,
19 five or six years to go flying with me, and the debate was
20 we will get some lobster in Brunswick, Maine, and then we
21 will come back, we will fly by Freeport and go up to
22 L. L. Bean.

23 Well, he bit so we went on. I got up early, went
24 up to BWI, flew up to Brunswick -- actually flew up to Lake
25 Placid. I tell you, that's the first time he flew a plane.

1 George was uneasy, went up to the big mountain, but he
2 enjoyed flying. We came back around New York City, and I
3 said, George, why don't you go ahead and fly the airplane so
4 he put his hands on it. I heard him tell the story over the
5 years about flying the airplane around New York City and
6 that sort of thing. I never told him this, but I had the
7 autopilot on.

8 One of the interesting stories of George -- I
9 guess interesting in the sense that it's hard for me to
10 believe in this day and age there was a guy who represented
11 somebody at the last public flogging in Prince George's
12 County right out here. George was the guy. George was the
13 individual. And, so, he has been around a long time.

14 He was tough, fair, honest to a fault. I was very
15 fortunate. George treated me like a son. He really did.
16 When I practiced law with him, when I first went from the
17 County Attorney's Office to be with him on Main Street here,
18 there was always, you know, what's the arrangement with
19 respect to paying this or paying that. Well, he paid my
20 secretary for three or four months. It was a perfect
21 relationship. We would work on cases and never question who
22 was going to get what. He was always fair. Over the years
23 there was never any problem. He was fair. He was honest to
24 a fault.

25 Perhaps the biggest understatement that you can

1 ever make about George would be hometown boy makes good.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE LEVIN: James Boss will be remembered by
4 Dick Rice.

5 MR. RICE: Good afternoon, members of the bench,
6 honored guests, and especially Lucy W. Boss and her
7 daughter, Ellen Boss, and her husband, Don. It is my
8 privilege to speak a few words on behalf of James G. Boss.

9 James G. Boss -- I don't think anybody ever called
10 him James except, perhaps, Lucy when she got mad. He was
11 always Jim or Jimmy, and everybody knew him by that name.

12 He was born in 1914 in Laurel, and died November
13 2, 1996, at 83 years of age. He attended Laurel High School
14 and went on to St. John's University in Annapolis. He told
15 me some tales about St. John's when he was there, and it
16 sounds like it wasn't a croquet college in those days with
17 box football and lots of other things.

18 He told me one thing I never will forget. It had
19 to do with a student from North Carolina who was on the
20 boxing team, who later became a doctor in Laurel, very
21 well-known, good doctor. I knew him because he was a family
22 physician. He had hands as big as a ham, and Jimmy told me
23 one night at a fraternity party at St. John's about a little
24 fisticuffs, and, of course, everyone has heard the story
25 about knocking somebody down the steps. Well, this doctor

1 knocked somebody up the steps. So, anyway, he had quite a
2 time at St. John's.

3 After St. John's he went on to Georgetown
4 University Law School, and there his true scholarship
5 ability came to light, and he was Editor of the Law Review.

6 After graduating law school, he went to work in
7 Washington for the RFC, the Reconstruction Finance
8 Corporation, President Roosevelt's alphabet soup. Of
9 course, billions of dollars were involved, and there were
10 many lawyers. Jimmy told me at one time he had 80 lawyers
11 working under him.

12 I can't think of a worse nightmare. If you issue
13 memoranda to 80 lawyers, I know there are going to be at
14 least 80 responses, and every one different.

15 After working at the RFC for a few years, he
16 practiced law with two firms, I believe, small firms, and
17 then he returned to his true love, the Town of Laurel, and
18 began practice there with a man named Ernie Cory.

19 I joined his firm in 1960 and became a partner
20 shortly thereafter. There were many years of practice, the
21 three of us, and, of course, the firm was closely knit. How
22 else can you be otherwise.

23 I do remember occasions when partner Cory would
24 come up with some wild schemes or something, and there would
25 be a discussion, and Ernie would say, Jimmy, what do you

1 think, and Jimmy would say, no, I don't think it's a good
2 idea, Ernie. There would be a little bit more discussion,
3 and finally Jimmy would say you can't do that Ernie.
4 Obviously, there were situations where he went across the
5 line, and Jimmy was a leveling force. He would say it in a
6 nice way, but he definitely was a leveling force.

7 Jimmy treated me, when I first started practicing
8 law, with respect, and he tried to do everything he could
9 for me to help me. He was that way with other lawyers too.

10 I have talked to some of my contemporaries, in
11 particular one in Ellicott City who became State's Attorney
12 and all this, and he is still around, and he remembers Jimmy
13 quite well. At that time my friend was doing title work in
14 the courthouse in Ellicott City, and he said he can remember
15 Jimmy would tell him things about titles which might be very
16 arcane to anyone else. I'm not a title man, but Jimmy was
17 always very helpful, instructive and maybe a little bit
18 demanding, but never disrespectful or anything like that.

19 With some elderly lawyers, when a new lawyer comes
20 along, there is a great deal of disdain for the young
21 lawyer, perhaps maybe even jealousy, but Jimmy was never
22 that way with me or with any other attorney. I believe
23 there is a young girl practicing law in Laurel right now who
24 will tell you that he was one of the best, if not the best,
25 instructors that has been around.

1 In 1972, Jimmy was appointed by the government to
2 the Inmate Grievance Commission, and this was a commission
3 which heard the grievances of prisoners all around the State
4 of Maryland. Of course, your main prisons are Hagerstown
5 and Jessup and Baltimore City where you have not only the
6 jail but the penitentiary. Jimmy, along with his
7 commission, used to have to go around to these jails and
8 hear these complaints of the inmates.

9 Of course, as you all know and most people feel,
10 prison inmates are not your favorite people. But these
11 complaints had to be listened to, and Jimmy and other
12 members of the commission had to decide the grievance.

13 Being on that commission, like being a judge or
14 any administrative hearing officer, what have you, there are
15 questions of fact all the time, and what it boils down to
16 very often is who do you believe, which one, John or Joe.

17 I remember a couple of times Jimmy had talked to
18 me, and he was really concerned because he felt that he was
19 going to have to decide the case in favor of the inmate. He
20 didn't want to do it, but he had to because he had that
21 sense of honesty and integrity, which a lot of people don't
22 have. He didn't express his apprehension.

23 Now, I have been in and out of those institutions,
24 and if anybody in here has, they know what it's like. Going
25 in there are a lot of steel bar doors clanking and shutting,

1 opening. There are locks, steel locks, clicking and
2 clicking, and it's kind of an eerie experience.

3 If Jimmy didn't feel it, I know I would have,
4 going back to one of those prisons when you have decided a
5 case in favor of the inmate, and there was some disciplinary
6 action against one or more of the prison officials. I know
7 it would have made me quite uneasy, but Jimmy never
8 expressed any uneasiness about that. He was willing to take
9 whatever came his way.

10 Jimmy also was very active in historic
11 preservation. He was active both at the city level, City of
12 Laurel, Prince George's County, and the state level. He
13 spent many hours on these various commissions, and, of
14 course, those commissions are relatively new. I don't think
15 they existed more than 30 years ago or so.

16 He was instrumental in setting up the original
17 rules of these commissions. I believe that some of the
18 rules he helped establish are still in effect not only in
19 Maryland, but in the District of Columbia and Virginia, and
20 I believe he had a profound impact on these different
21 commissions.

22 Within the City of Laurel, the Historic District
23 Commission was established 20 or 30 years ago -- I am not
24 sure which -- and Jimmy was the first chairman, and he
25 remained chairman until he became physically disabled just a

1 few years ago.

2 I saw him in action. If any of you know what
3 these local Historic District Commissions are faced with,
4 sometimes it can be a little touchy. The commission sets
5 areas and rules within that area, and you can't build a new
6 house or tear down a house or do certain things to the house
7 without approval of the Historic Commission.

8 Of course, some people react to the very idea of
9 the commission as intruding upon their privacy and being
10 outlandish and unconstitutional and all that.

11 Of course, they are constitutional and all that,
12 but Jimmy, in hearing these cases, really bent over
13 backwards to give everybody their say-so in a hearing. He
14 also was innately fair, or I should say his commission was
15 innately fair in their decisions.

16 I have known people that when they first heard of
17 the Historic District Commission -- sometimes refer to it as
18 hysterical -- curse up and down and say it ought to be
19 abolished, and whatever they did was illegal and no damn
20 good and all that. But by this time, the person had gone to
21 the commission and had explained to him or her, he sat
22 through what it did and what they were going to do, they
23 came away having really nothing but praise because the
24 commission has and will accomplish good things for all
25 people concerned.

1 In closing, I sort of look upon Jimmy as a man of
2 giving. He wasn't a taker. He was a giver. He gave his
3 time to the church. He gave his time to the historic
4 commissions, and any time a volunteer request would come
5 about, Jimmy would pitch in. He didn't do it for adulation,
6 and he didn't do it for public praise. It was there if he
7 wanted it, but he never asked for it.

8 I also look upon him as a man who really believed
9 in the practice of law as a profession. He didn't think of
10 it as just a way to make money. He didn't think of it as a
11 way to get his name in the newspaper. He thought of the
12 practice of law as an honorable profession, and that's
13 almost unusual these days.

14 But I like to think that he touched many people,
15 and that in touching those people, he gave them some feeling
16 that the practice of law is not just a way to make a living,
17 but it's a way to help people and the people in society.

18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE LEVIN: Al Fried will be remembered by
20 Howard Goldman.

21 MR. GOLDMAN: Honorable members of the bench, my
22 brothers and sisters of the bar, friends and family of
23 Alfred Fried, and, in particular, his lovely wife, Dana, and
24 son, Randy, who are here today.

25 I first met Al Fried 30 years ago. I was actually

1 directed to him 30 years ago when we had a People's Court in
2 Laurel that used to meet one Friday a month. Generally, you
3 had a substitute People's Court Judge that would sit, and a
4 departed member of our bar, Harold Rogers, was one of the
5 substitute People's Court Judges.

6 I had just gone into practice. In fact, I had
7 just opened an office with no experience, and I had over
8 about a four-month period of time assimilated about eleven
9 cases. In speaking with Judge Rogers, not knowing what to
10 do in 10 of the 11 cases, he suggested that I talk to his
11 partner, Al Fried.

12 In those years, they had a law office above the
13 post office in Riverdale, and so I called. He was happy to
14 see me, and I went down, introduced myself, carried with me
15 11 files, and he spent the time in going through each of
16 them.

17 We came across a personal injury case that had
18 what I thought was substantial value. In discussing how to
19 put the case together, he recommended that I would need, of
20 course, the doctor, and I needed an economist, and I needed
21 a life care expert. I inquired of him the kinds of costs
22 that this would involve. After he explained to me what
23 those costs would be, I said, well, there has to be a way we
24 can shortcut some of this because I certainly couldn't
25 afford that.

1 He taught me, as we were talking about that
2 particular case, a very valuable lesson as a young lawyer.
3 He said there really are two ways, Howard, to prepare this
4 case. There's the right way, and there's the right way, and
5 to do it any other way than that, you are doing a great
6 disservice to not only your profession but to your client.
7 I will tell you that in 30 years that lesson has served me
8 well.

9 Al Fried at that moment became a mentor to me,
10 continued to mentor me off and on, and I had the privilege
11 of then practicing with him as a partner in the mid-70s,
12 prior to his going back to practice in the District of
13 Columbia.

14 I will tell you that I attended a memorial service
15 for Al at American University shortly after his death some
16 eight or nine months ago, and they had 25 lawyers get up and
17 speak on behalf of Al. One was more articulate than the
18 next, and the common theme and message was one and the same.

19 Each one of them told of an instance similar to
20 the one I have just told to you, that as a young lawyer they
21 came to him with a problem, and of his own free time he
22 explained to them how to handle the case, gave them the
23 proper direction, and each one of them spoke as if Al had
24 singularly mentored them.

25 Here I thought I was privileged to be -- I

1 probably was his oldest mentee, but that is how he conducted
2 himself throughout his entire legal career.

3 We had many discussions, and one of the things
4 that troubled Al was that he felt that the profession, as a
5 result of certain things -- one was advertising, one was
6 Watergate as two benchmark events -- had diminished because
7 of the way people approached the practice.

8 It was always his high standards and hope that if
9 you adhered to the basic simple rules, that the practice,
10 itself, would rise to the ennobled level that it was prior
11 to those two benchmark events.

12 Al Fried was a consummate gentleman. I never met
13 anyone who had any contact with him, whether it was in the
14 arena of advocacy, or whether it was in his personal life,
15 that said anything bad about Al Fried. When you mentioned
16 his name the epitome of the consummate gentleman is called
17 to mind.

18 He was a soft-spoken person who got his message
19 across. The practice of law, as was mentioned previously by
20 Mr. Rice on behalf of Mr. Boss, was really not primarily
21 focused or designed to earn big bucks, but it was an
22 ennobling calling where you were called upon to provide help
23 for people that were in distress, and Al Fried in every
24 instance answered that call.

25 The particular case that I mentioned earlier, this

1 personal injury case, he was the kind of a person who, when
2 the case was finally ready for trial, it took three days to
3 try it. I tried it in front of Judge Meloy, and I had the
4 educational lesson of having Kevin McCarthy on the other
5 side. Al Fried sat at the trial table with me, without any
6 compensation, for those entire three days with no obligation
7 to me except that was the kind of person that he was.

8 I suggest to you that the passing of Al Fried has
9 diminished the legal community, but even more so it has
10 diminished the community in whole. Al Fried will be missed,
11 certainly, by anyone who had the privilege of having him
12 touch their lives.

13 His honesty, his integrity and his forthrightness
14 mark him as someone that I can tell you it was a privilege
15 and a pleasure, and I am glad that I had the opportunity of
16 knowing Al Fried. I certainly will miss him.

17 JUDGE LEVIN: Bond Holford will be memorialized by
18 Russell Shipley.

19 MR. SHIPLEY: Thank you, Judge Levin. Judge Woods,
20 members of the court, members of the bench and bar, friends
21 and guests of the deceased, it is my privilege to make a few
22 comments concerning the life and times of Bond Holford.

23 Bond was an attorney in Prince George's County who
24 practiced in the county and was a member of the bench of the
25 District Court for about ten years, serving from '77 to '86,

1 1977 to 1986. Bond died on April 25th of this year at his
2 retirement home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He died of
3 cancer. The disease was diagnosed in January of this year.

4 Bond was born 76 years ago in Washington, D. C.,
5 one of eight children. His mother was a housewife. His
6 father was a wholesale grocer at the old farmer's market in
7 Northeast.

8 I spoke with his sisters. Two of his sisters are
9 here today. I would like to recognize them. Doris
10 McFarlane and Juanita Stokes, who are seated here in the
11 front row. They tell me, and I believe it because I knew
12 Bond myself, that Bond was a good brother and a good son.

13 He graduated from Eastern High School in 1939, and
14 when World War II began, he joined the Navy. The first
15 service in 1942 was on a troop carrier carrying the Atka
16 Army to Northern Morocco at the beginning of the war in
17 North Africa. Patton joined up with Montgomery and fought
18 against Rommel at that time.

19 Later in 1942, Bond was transferred to the west
20 coast, the Pacific Theater, where he served out of Hawaii on
21 the USS Hood and the USS Enterprise, and also he was about
22 to serve on the USS Yorktown. His job was to guide planes
23 on and off ships.

24 He worked on the flight deck in all kinds of
25 weather, and in the midst of battling. I always wondered

1 about those guys. They give them what appears to be two
2 tennis paddles. Anybody ask if they had a gun, and he has
3 table tennis paddles. It takes a lot of nerve to fight a
4 war under those circumstances, for me at least.

5 He fought in battles in the Philippines. He
6 fought in Midway. He was assigned to the Yorktown one day
7 before it was sunk in the Battle of Midway.

8 In 1942 or '43, he served on the Cowpens, USS
9 Cowpens, which was also an aircraft carrier. He fought in
10 the Marianas, which was a very strategic battle in the war.
11 He was involved in the landing of Iwo Jima. The USS Cowpens
12 was in the first flotilla of ships to enter the Sea of Japan
13 and Guam Island of Japan at the end of the war.

14 He was in the first of the ships to enter Tokyo
15 Bay, and from its deck flew the first airplanes to land on
16 the Island of Japan at the end of the war.

17 In 1944, on September 2, 1944, he married his
18 wife, Geneva. They returned to this area, and Bond, with
19 the GI Bill, attended George Washington University, George
20 Washington Law School. He graduated in the top ten percent
21 of his class. He passed both the Maryland and D. C. Bars in
22 1952, and his family moved to Hyattsville in 1950.

23 When I was talking to one of his sisters
24 yesterday, she mentioned during the war years that during
25 the war Bond kept a diary, and after the war he gave it to

1 her, and she kept it for many years.

2 One day many years later she thought it might be
3 interesting to read the diary of a sailor at war time. She
4 opened it up and found that, basically, it was a chronicle
5 of names of sailors and the amounts of money they owed him
6 for gambling debts. Grand old historical value. He
7 probably never collected that money.

8 He served in Mount Rainier, practiced with a very
9 nice guy, Don Caulfield, who is still living, although he is
10 very sick. He lives in Mount Rainier. Their practice was
11 known as Holford & Caulfield, and they engaged in the
12 general practice of law.

13 Bond represented Nationwide Insurance. For a time
14 he was attorney to the Maryland Real Estate Board. He
15 served as a Master of Domestic Relations. He was given the
16 Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding
17 Citizen Award in 1974, and he was appointed to the District
18 Court in 1977, and he served in that capacity until his
19 retirement in 1986.

20 I like to tell the story that one day he was
21 unhappy about a judgment he had to make in a criminal case,
22 two young men who had been accused of stealing a television
23 set from a school. He felt they did it, but the State
24 couldn't prove its case. Bond couldn't get over that case
25 rolling over in his mind. He finally got rid of this

1 trouble by buying a television set and presenting it to the
2 school. That was one solution he had for an otherwise
3 unjust event.

4 As I say, he retired and moved to South Carolina
5 and lived there for ten years. He was an avid golfer. He
6 was a gardener. He and his wife were stamp collectors.

7 Geneva tells me that when he found out he was sick
8 and only had a short time to live, typical of him, he did
9 not think of himself or indulge himself, but he spent the
10 few remaining days that he had expending his energy to put
11 everything in order so that the transition of his passing
12 would go easy on her.

13 She tells me that he died with the same courage
14 and bravery that saw him through those many battles in World
15 War II.

16 Lastly, she wants to indicate that she is sorry
17 that she could not be here. She is taking care of her
18 ailing mother in South Carolina, and her daughter is
19 undergoing an operation tomorrow. But she wants me to make
20 sure to express her extreme gratitude to the members of the
21 bench and the bar and the Bar Association for providing this
22 service.

23 I cannot pay Bond a higher tribute than to say he
24 was a great lawyer and a great person, and certainly can't
25 pay a higher tribute to him than his wife, Geneva, did.

1 Thank you very much.

2 JUDGE LEVIN: Paul Nussbaum will be remembered by
3 Josef Brown.

4 MR. BROWN: Fellow members of the bench, the bar,
5 Goldie Nussbaum and other guests, it was over three years
6 ago that I stood in another courtroom in this courthouse for
7 my investiture as a Judge for the District Court of
8 Maryland.

9 Paul Nussbaum was a presenter and speaker on my
10 behalf that day. In my response that day, I spoke about
11 Paul and would like to repeat today some of the things I
12 said on July 5th, 1994.

13 Paul Nussbaum has been my friend for over 37
14 years, my partner for almost 35 years, and has been like a
15 brother to me. There probably have not been many
16 partnerships in this county that have been as close or
17 lasted as long.

18 I will certainly miss practicing with Paul. He
19 taught me to be a lawyer. Paul always counseled never go to
20 court unless you have out prepared the other side. I
21 learned so much from him as a legal strategist. Not only
22 was he a legal mentor, he was a great teacher in raising
23 one's family. He and Goldie and family have always been
24 members of the Brown family and, in fact, my daughters still
25 refer to him as Uncle Paul.

1 Since July of 1994, two things have changed from
2 those words that day. Our close friendship lasted for over
3 40 years, and it was only ended by his death this past
4 March.

5 Those of you who knew Paul well know that he was
6 the most organized individual one could find, especially in
7 the year prior to his death. Paul was always known for his
8 planning. He did not like to go into anything on
9 happenstance. He always planned everything, and, as they
10 say, in the year prior to his death, he called me and said I
11 would like you to come to my house. I want to speak to you.

12 Although at that time I did not want to think
13 about it, Paul asked me at that time to be his speaker at
14 this memorial service. I consider this a great honor to do
15 so in memory of a man who so greatly influenced my life and
16 others who knew him and worked with him.

17 Paul was born in Munich, Germany, on November 28,
18 1929. His early life was not a good time for his family to
19 be living in Germany, and the family immigrated to the
20 United States in 1939.

21 Paul attended high school, college and law school
22 in the evening while working to support his family. Paul
23 graduated from law school in 1958, graduating from the
24 Washington College of Law at American University.

25 Upon his admission to the bar in Maryland, Paul

1 began practicing in Hyattsville, and Paul and I became
2 partners in Hyattsville in 1959.

3 Paul continued to practice in Prince George's
4 County for his entire legal career. Paul developed
5 emphysema, which prevented him from appearing in court, and
6 this was a very difficult thing for Paul because Paul loved
7 courtrooms.

8 Although he was limited in his courtroom
9 appearances, he still practiced law, advising and counseling
10 other attorneys in the office as to how to prepare and
11 handle problems. Ultimately, when Paul developed cancer, he
12 was forced to retire.

13 Paul had many different sayings, many of them
14 dealing with moral issues and guidelines for the attorney.
15 There was one great moral saying that Paul taught me that
16 was his guide word and will remain with me the rest of my
17 life. Many were the times I heard Paul say to me and others
18 in the firm, once you can do A, you can do B.

19 I know that this does not sound like a great moral
20 teaching, but Paul always used it when someone thought about
21 committing a small indiscretion or cutting a corner. Paul
22 would fall back on his childhood and the German children's
23 story of Hansel and Gretel.

24 If you remember the story, the wicked stepmother
25 convinced Hansel and Gretel's natural father to take the

1 children in the woods so that they would become lost. You
2 will also recall that the father could not take his children
3 all the way into the woods, and he only took them to the
4 edge of the woods so that the children could find their way
5 home.

6 The next day the stepmother told the father take
7 the children further into the woods, and the father
8 responded I cannot do that. The stepmother said yesterday
9 you were willing to take them to the edge of the woods. Now
10 you must take them all the way into the woods.

11 This was the basis of Paul's teaching of once you
12 do A, you can do B. Paul and all the lawyers associated
13 with him were required to follow the rule of don't waver on
14 the small things because then you can waver on the big
15 things.

16 Paul was tough in the courtroom as well as in
17 negotiations. He was demanding of himself, his partners,
18 associates and other attorneys. But even though he was
19 tough in the courtroom and in negotiations, he was always
20 ready to, after the battle, enjoy friendship with his
21 opponent.

22 Those of you who only knew Paul briefly or
23 casually did not really know him. Those of you who took the
24 time to get to know him knew him to be a warm, humorous,
25 generous and caring person. Paul was extremely charitable,

1 being a benefactor to many civic and religious causes. He
2 loved the opera, and he never accepted any acknowledgment as
3 to his charities.

4 The legal profession has lost an exceptional
5 practitioner. Goldie and the boys have lost a devoted
6 husband and father, and I have lost an adviser, confidant
7 and great friend. His works and his teachings will be long
8 remembered.

9 JUDGE LEVIN: John Lillard will be remembered by
10 his son, John Lillard, III.

11 MR. LILLARD: Thank you, Judge Levin, Your Honors,
12 Your Honors, and my colleagues in the bar. What a wonderful
13 group of human beings my father was privileged to serve
14 among, and that is the members of the Prince George's County
15 Bar Association, the bench and the bar. He always knew what
16 a special group of individuals we have here in Southern
17 Maryland in our profession.

18 When I left law school and went with large firms
19 in New York and Washington, I thought that was where law was
20 really practiced, on Wall Street and in Federal Courts all
21 over the country and the Justice Department. But, no, this
22 is the real thing right here, and my dad was -- the word
23 I've heard today and since he died in June was "proud." He
24 was a very proud man.

25 He died of a stroke, and this wonderful, proud man

1 had been reduced by the Lord's time on earth to a very weak
2 man, but in his challenges in the last several months, he
3 said, you know, you have to take it like a man. He was so
4 strong and so proud of being a member of this bar.

5 When dad came up, there were a few more characters
6 though. One remembers stories of Ignatius Keane, Oscar
7 Dooley, Ernie Cory, Jack Lancaster, and a cast of others
8 that had a great time at Bar Association meetings.

9 Anybody remember the Beaver Dam Country Club? My
10 Uncle Bowie played the piano. And who was it that did the
11 tap dancing? Maybe Your Honor. Those were the times.

12 You know, Bob Shook and I were negotiating
13 settlement this morning, and he said I remember your dad.
14 When he got on his feet, his face was red and he was a
15 tyrant. Judge Taylor said the word that comes to mind is
16 "gentleman" because he was.

17 Dad went to the University of Virginia, and the
18 code of the gentleman was so much a part of him, the look,
19 the demeanor in court.

20 You know, there was only one time when the three
21 members of the firm, before I came along, were in court
22 together, and I think it was for a case that one of the
23 larger clients insisted my granddad come to court in his
24 later years. My Uncle Bowie was the scholar, the
25 researcher. My dad was the talker, and granddad was the

1 senior partner.

2 Uncle Bowie had studied for the priesthood, so
3 right down this hall they swaggered into this courtroom, and
4 the comment among all the lawyers was there's the father,
5 the son and the Holy Ghost.

6 My grandad took my dad to a hanging as one of his
7 very first acts as the senior partner with a young son. My
8 dad never forgot it and, therefore, the rights of the
9 criminal were apparent in his practice. He said you can
10 never make any money in court, but you can't be afraid to
11 go.

12 You can make all your money in District Court.
13 The way you do it is setting the fee. You know, you had to
14 walk a long way to my dad's desk, around the -- remember,
15 Judge Casula -- around the door and into that very big chair
16 that you had to sit in and look up at my dad. Setting the
17 fee was his specialty because when he looked you in the
18 eyes, he wanted to find out how much trouble you thought you
19 were in.

20 He was a tennis champion of Prince George's
21 County, a doubles champion back in the '30s, and a horseback
22 rider. He won a lot of blue ribbons, had some racehorses.
23 Now, there is something that he never made money at, but
24 horses were a part of his life.

25 He was a golfer in his later years at the Prince

1 George's Country Club where he shot an 82 in his career.

2 He served as your Ethics Committee Chairman and
3 Admissions Committee Chairman. He was fond in his later
4 years of saying, you know, we don't practice law anymore, we
5 practice rules. He liked the old days where we used to get
6 jurors by walking up and down the streets of Marlboro.

7 He served in the legislature during that window of
8 time when Republicans were running things back in the early
9 '50s and was very much a leader in politics.

10 The only time he came to court with me was on a
11 traffic case. I've got to say it was a failure to yield,
12 and Judge Melbourne presided. Our client was a rather seedy
13 looking fellow, but he had paid me a lot of money because he
14 was really in trouble in his mind, and it turned out he
15 probably was because my father introduced me to the Court,
16 and she found my client guilty, but also asked for a
17 presentence investigation.

18 Turns out my client had made some rather unusual
19 gestures to the two ladies that he had cut off in this
20 traffic offense. So I didn't ask dad to preside with me
21 anymore after that in small District Court cases.

22 He made some law in the Flanagan case, which was
23 the first interpretation of our new no-fault divorce law in
24 Maryland, but he was more of a practical lawyer.

25 My granddad had come to Hyattsville as the

1 telegrapher for the B & O Railroad when there were 92
2 people, and my dad came and joined him after Friends School
3 and Gaton Military Academy, and University of Virginia, and
4 then went to war in World War II and came back, and then I
5 came along.

6 He would say, if he were here today, that his
7 greatest honor in life was to be among this group of ladies
8 and gentlemen in this bar, and it's been my privilege to be
9 a member for many, many, many years as well.

10 JUDGE LEVIN: Judge Sylvania Woods will be
11 remembered by Judge James Taylor.

12 JUDGE TAYLOR: May it please the Court, ladies and
13 gentlemen. Twenty-eight years ago I stood at this podium
14 and I said this, too, is America. Tomorrow will be 28 years
15 since I became appointed, invested as a judge in this court,
16 so I am particularly honored to be here today, and I would
17 like to be here 28 years from now.

18 For the family of Judge Woods, his wife, Genie,
19 his son, Skip, Sylvania Jr., and his daughter, Sebrena,
20 friends, family of my colleagues, members of the bar and
21 judges of this court and of the District Court, I am indeed
22 honored to have been asked to participate in the remembering
23 of our colleagues who have passed.

24 I am particularly proud to have been asked to
25 speak about Judge Woods, whom I had met about 32 or 34 years

1 ago when he was practicing law in the District of Columbia
2 and was associated with the firm of Walter Washington, who
3 was the first African-American Mayor of the District of
4 Columbia in the 20th Century.

5 I see amongst the audience one of his colleagues,
6 John McDaniel, Esq., and also one of his good friends,
7 Frederick Douglas Gray, who happens to be a cousin of
8 J. Franklyn Bourne, who was a member of the firm that we had
9 in Seat Pleasant from about 1964 until we all became judges.

10 Yes, I became a judge in 1969, J. Franklyn Bourne,
11 I believe, in 1970, Henry Predmore Johnson, who Sylvania
12 succeeded, and also another member of that group was Bruce
13 Harrison, who died in August of this year. I happen to be
14 the sole survivor of the five of us, and I am happy to be
15 with you.

16 You know, to talk about Sylvania Woods, you've
17 really got to talk about the America into which he was born
18 on August the 4th of 1927 at Fort Gaines, Georgia, an
19 America in which the national policy was separate but equal
20 as far as races were concerned.

21 In those days, there weren't but two recognized
22 races in America, I would say. You were either white or
23 black. There was no in between. Indeed, on the west coast
24 there were a few Asiatics, and in the southwest there were
25 many Hispanic persons. But in the east, you were black or

1 white, and there was never a commingling of the same in the
2 southeast of the United States of America at the time of his
3 birth.

4 At that time, there was not an African-American
5 marine in all of the Marine Corps. At that time, there was
6 not even a general officer and had never been a general
7 officer in the United States Army. There was not a black
8 flag officer in the United States Navy, nor had there ever
9 been a nonwhite graduate of the Naval Academy. The Air
10 Corps, which was then part of the Army, had no black flying
11 personnel.

12 That was America, the America into which Sylvania
13 Woods was born. An America that provided a public
14 education, but for Americans of African descent in the
15 south, that consisted of five months of schooling each year.
16 Those were the five months between harvest and planting
17 because at the end of September and beginning of October,
18 the harvesting had to be done, and in the end of March,
19 beginning of April, the planting had to be done, and if you
20 were a poor black person in a rural community in Georgia,
21 that is the level or the extent of the education you got.

22 Notwithstanding that, Sylvania Woods entered the
23 military at age 16 while in the tenth grade of school in
24 Fort Gaines, Georgia. He entered the military by advancing
25 his age by two years so that he could get into the Navy, and

1 he served in the Navy honorably, and was honorably
2 discharged in 1945. That was a quantum leap for Sylvania W.
3 Woods.

4 Upon his discharge from the military, he completed
5 a high school equivalency test and got his diploma, and then
6 he matriculated to Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia.
7 I would be willing to bet you that he was the first and the
8 only black man in Fort Gaines, Georgia, to have entered a
9 college.

10 He graduated from Morris Brown and continued his
11 work toward a Master's degree in business administration at
12 Atlanta University.

13 Now, I am talking about premier schools for black
14 folks in the 1940s. Morris Brown and Atlanta University are
15 part of the consortium of historical Negro or black colleges
16 in America.

17 While at Atlanta University, Sylvania met Genie
18 Holloway, whom he married in 1950, and he, indeed, had two
19 children whom I mentioned earlier.

20 In 1954 Sylvania came to Washington, worked as a
21 police officer, then worked as a postal inspector. While
22 working as a postal inspector, he entered the Washington
23 College of Law at American University from which he
24 graduated in 1960, and in 1962 he began practicing law in
25 Washington, D. C.

1 He practiced there until 1967 -- I should say he
2 practiced exclusively there until 1967, at which time he
3 came out to Seat Pleasant, came into my office and said that
4 he's interested in becoming a member of the bar of Maryland.

5 I was happy to see him. We re-established a
6 friendship, and Sylvania was admitted to the Maryland Bar
7 and practiced from then on in both jurisdictions.

8 He practiced with me until I became a member of
9 this court or the court, rather. When Frank became a member
10 of the District Court, he and Bruce and Henry continued to
11 practice, then Henry became a member of the District Court.

12 I say all that to say this, that you can't measure
13 the mettle of Sylvania Woods unless you know the things that
14 he experienced in his long struggle to become somebody, to
15 become a judge of this court. He made it, and in doing so,
16 and on that tab, he became a staunch member of this
17 community, the community of Prince George's County.

18 He served in numerous positions and on numerous
19 commissions. He was a Judge Advocate for the American
20 Legion for the Department of Maryland; Vice-Chairman of the
21 Democratic Central Committee for Prince George's County,
22 Maryland; Regional Vice-Chairman of the Democratic State
23 Committee in Maryland; Chairman of the Bylaws Committee of
24 the Sidwell Friends School from which his daughter, Sebrena,
25 graduated; Executive Committee member and Assistant

1 Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop Number 1037.

2 He was a member, also, of the District of Columbia
3 Bar, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, the Prince
4 George's County Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar
5 Association, and the National Bar Association.

6 He was also a member of Felix Lodge No. 3 of the
7 Free and Accepted Masons, of the Jonathan Davis Consistory,
8 32nd Degree Masons.

9 He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign
10 Wars, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, and the Ploughman
11 and Fisherman of Prince George's County, a member of the
12 25th Legislative District Democratic Club, member of the
13 NAACP, the Urban League, and the Washington College of Law
14 and the Morris Brown College Alumni Associations.

15 Those of us who knew Sylvania as friend and as a
16 judge knew him to be one of the most sensitive persons, the
17 most compassionate persons, and a person who exhibited his
18 philosophy of treating all as he would have wanted to be
19 treated.

20 I am proud to have known him. I am proud to be
21 able to say that this America, when it determines a
22 nations's will, can accomplish everything. All of the
23 failures of our society notwithstanding, America, when it
24 determined that segregation, discrimination was wrong,
25 embarked upon a program for desegregation, and as

1 consequences of which we can look amongst us here in this
2 courtroom and see the achievement of all persons, whether he
3 is Asiatic, whether he is Jewish, whether he is black,
4 whether he is Muslim, whether he is white.

5 We are all here, and this is the America which I
6 am proud to say this, too, is America, and I am sure that
7 Sylvania would have been just as happy to say that if he
8 were able to do so today.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE LEVIN: Judge DeBlasis will be remembered by
11 Judge McCullough.

12 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Chief Judge Woods, County
13 Administrative Judge Missouri, my former colleagues, Trudy,
14 Sam, II, Patty, Katie and little Sam, and ladies and
15 gentlemen, Judge DeBlasis -- that is the first time and
16 probably the last time I am going to refer to him as judge
17 because he and I were friends for a long, long time.

18 I will tell you a little bit about his history and
19 not too much because most of you probably have read it in
20 the papers. Sam was born in Bellaire, Ohio, on March 20,
21 1920. He won football scholarships and played halfback at
22 the University of Dayton, Ohio, and the University of
23 Nevada.

24 He entered the United States Army in 1942, and saw
25 action in Europe as a member of the anti-tank unit. I don't

1 know why, but Sam never, ever really talked about his
2 service, to me at least. All I can remember him saying to
3 me is how cold it was and how wet he got. But other than
4 other things that he did -- and I'm sure that he saw a lot
5 of service, a lot of active duty there -- he never really
6 talked about it.

7 After the war ended, he attended George Washington
8 University and graduated in 1949. I did not know him then.
9 I first met Sam while I was at the hospital one day visiting
10 my father, and I was told by someone at the hospital that
11 Sam DeBlasis was down the hall. I knew of him, but did not
12 know him. I walked down the hall, and he was having -- he
13 had a heart fibrillation problem. His heart would go out of
14 whack without notice, and sometimes galloped 200 beats a
15 minute. Not a very comfortable thing for him, very scary.
16 I walked in the room and sat down and talked to him a bit.

17 I didn't realize how impressed he was by the fact
18 that I stopped by to see him, and we really didn't know each
19 other. I think that started our friendship, and I didn't
20 know that at the time.

21 After he graduated from law school, he went to
22 work for the Lawyer's Title of Richmond searching titles,
23 and also worked for Bob Edwards, who was a member of this
24 association, a senior member. He also searched titles
25 there.

1 Then he formed a law firm with Oscar Dooley, and
2 his office was across the street. His law firm with Oscar
3 lasted a while until Oscar's death, and then he formed a law
4 firm which was called DeBlasis, Kahler, Shipley & O'Malley.
5 I know you remember or recognize some of those names. This
6 was in 1966. His practice basically was criminal law,
7 domestic relations law and real estate.

8 He also served for many years as an attorney for
9 the Prince George's Hotel and Restaurant Association. He
10 was active in business affairs and was the original director
11 of the Southern Maryland Bank & Trust Company headquartered
12 in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland. He later became the
13 president and chairman of the board of that bank.

14 Sam was long active in politics in Maryland, and
15 in the early 1960s he was instrumental in forming, along
16 with Earl Griffith and others, a slate of candidates to run
17 against the machine. In those days, the opposition was
18 always called the machine. I haven't heard that in a long
19 time, but he put together a slate.

20 He called me one evening at home and asked me if I
21 would be willing to be a candidate for the Maryland Senate.
22 Well, I've never been, number one, too interested in
23 politics and, number two, wasn't known in the county at all,
24 so I really didn't think I would be a very good candidate.
25 Plus the fact I was married then, I had three children,

1 young children, and I had a fledgling law practice, and I,
2 frankly, thought I just couldn't afford to do that, and I
3 turned him down.

4 He then called another young lawyer -- I was young
5 then -- Steny Hoyer, and I need not tell you what happened
6 to Steny.

7 Others on that slate -- some of the older members
8 of the bar will remember -- were the late Gladys Spellman;
9 former State's Attorney Bud Marshall, who I saw here earlier
10 today; former Chairman of the County Council, Frank Aluisi;
11 and Frank Francois.

12 The slate of candidates picked by Sam and others
13 that year swept into office and walked the machine out.
14 Later on that group of people, after they were in office for
15 a while, were then called the machine.

16 Judge Sam DeBlasis was elected President of the
17 Prince George's County Bar Association, and last month or a
18 few months ago you will remember that his son, Sam, became
19 President of the Bar Association.

20 I have been a member of the association for about
21 50 years. I am not quite sure how old this association is,
22 but I probably can go down for 50 years, and this is the
23 first time in the history of the Bar Association that we
24 have ever had a father and son as president of the Bar
25 Association. Sam could not be more proud of his son, and he

1 told me so. I don't know if he said that to Sam or not.

2 In 1969 the then Governor Mandel appointed Sam as
3 an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for the Seventh
4 Judicial Circuit. Sam's appointment was October 15, '69. I
5 was appointed November 1, '69, and Jim Taylor was appointed
6 November 15th, 1969. The purpose of all those appointments
7 at that time was that we were going to have a Family Court
8 in this court.

9 Unfortunately, the director that we picked to run
10 the program was a very poor selection and, secondly, we had
11 no support. In other words, we three judges could not run a
12 Family Court. We had to have psychologists and social
13 workers and a lot of financial support. That never
14 happened, and that effort at forming a Family Court in
15 Prince George's County failed.

16 Sam later retired from the practice of law. But
17 before I get to that, I only tried two cases with him. He
18 was representing the plaintiff in both cases. I was
19 representing the defense. They were always domestic cases,
20 and he always had the best end of the stick.

21 In the first case I had with him, he was
22 representing a wife, and I was representing a husband. The
23 big issue was custody of the children. The wife is claiming
24 that the husband drank too much, and the husband said that
25 the wife drank too much, and neither one of them should have

1 custody.

2 Well, Sam knew as a fact that the husband did do a
3 lot of drinking because he knew him personally and knew
4 people who knew him, and he worked on high tension wires.
5 But before he went out to work, I guess to fortify himself,
6 this guy would drink a half a quart of vodka. So he would
7 get up on however he did this, and he survived. I don't
8 know.

9 But Sam knew that, and he kept asking him how much
10 did he drink. A couple of beers. You are sure it's only a
11 couple of beers? Well, maybe two beers. Anything else?
12 Maybe occasional drinking of vodka.

13 He kept that up until suddenly my client blew up
14 and said I can drink you under the table any day. No need
15 to tell you I lost the custody case at that time.

16 The other brief case was -- and I will make this
17 very brief because it is getting late -- he was again
18 representing the wife, and I am representing the husband.
19 The wife was testifying to all these horrible things that
20 her husband did to her, and the last thing he did was throw
21 her over an embankment, and she was badly injured.

22 He rested, and Judge Parker was the judge at that
23 time. Judge Parker starts into his opinion. Of course, I
24 hadn't even started yet. I tried to interrupt Judge Parker.
25 Sam was not helpful at all. He is just sitting there

1 looking at me with this look on his face.

2 Judge Parker finished his opinion. I then said
3 may I approach the bench, and Judge Parker said no, and Sam
4 suggested maybe it would be wise if we did. We did approach
5 the bench, and I said to the judge I hadn't put on my case.
6 Can I put it on now? He said, well, if you want to. I
7 didn't. I went back and rested and did not put on a case,
8 lost it badly and appealed it, and Judge Parker was
9 reversed. We started all over again, and we settled the
10 case.

11 I played a lot of golf with Sam. He was a
12 beautiful golfer. He had a swing, a beautiful screw swing
13 that wasn't the same all the time. I was really a terrible
14 golfer. I think I still am, but he would sometimes get
15 annoying.

16 I don't know if all of you have ever heard the
17 orchestra Sammy Kaye. There used to be a tune Swinging and
18 Swaying with Sammy Kaye. Well, every time I would go into
19 my back swing, he would start humming Swinging and Swaying
20 with Sammy Kaye because I was swaying. Of course, it kind
21 of ruined my game, and he was trying to be helpful, and
22 actually he was. I got better.

23 Sam and Trudy were married September 13, 1947.
24 Soon after my wife and I were married on September 14th,
25 1947. We had great plans this year to celebrate our

1 anniversaries together. Unfortunately, Sam died August 8,
2 1997, from complications of leukemia, and we weren't able to
3 do that. But we did have a celebration with Trudy and her
4 family on her anniversary date, and our children also gave
5 us a party on our anniversary date. I was just sad that Sam
6 wasn't there to be with us.

7 I could speak many more words about Sam as my
8 departed friend. He has been my friend for over 50 years,
9 for about 50 years. I really only need a few words to say
10 Sam was a devoted husband and a father, a true and loyal
11 friend and, frankly, an all-around good person.

12 Now, Mr. Chief Judge Woods, I haven't heard other
13 people do this, and maybe I am out of style --

14 JUDGE LEVIN: Don't do it.

15 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: -- but I am going to do it
16 anyway, and you can deny the motion if I am out of style.
17 We used to say that we would ask that these remarks be
18 spread upon the permanent records of this Court and that a
19 copy of these remarks be furnished to the family. If that
20 motion is no longer appropriate, I would appreciate a
21 denial.

22 JUDGE MISSOURI: He will make it.

23 JUDGE LEVIN: I don't want him to do it. I would
24 like him to make it.

25 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Thank you very much.

1 JUDGE LEVIN: Bob Schmuhl will be remembered by
2 Angela Vallario.

3 MS. VALLARIO: Good afternoon, members of the
4 judiciary, fellow members of the bar, members of the family,
5 Jean Schmuhl, Robin Schmuhl and her husband, John, and
6 friends. I am honored to be here to speak on behalf of Bob
7 Schmuhl.

8 Bob Schmuhl and I met in September of '91, just
9 after I graduated from law school. We were then working in
10 Greenbelt, Maryland. He was my teacher, my mentor, and
11 ultimately became my very close and dear friend. He has
12 always been a part of my life as an attorney.

13 There are so many special and unique things that I
14 can say about Bob Schmuhl, but I would like to say three
15 significant things about him and his approach to the
16 practice of law.

17 He had a pleasant personality that worked well
18 with everyone. The service he provided to his clients from
19 his Harwood home office extended above and beyond the
20 practice of law and, finally, he had such a vast knowledge
21 of the law in the area of trusts and estates that he gave
22 those around him a sense of confidence.

23 His pleasant personality worked well with
24 everyone, even the IRS. I remember early on in our
25 relationship he and I were working on a trust together, and

1 we had some concerns as to the validity and the tax
2 ramifications of the document we were preparing pursuant to
3 our client's request. He said call John Pirri, the Federal
4 Estate and Gift Tax Auditor, and get his opinion on what we
5 were about to do.

6 Well, I had only been out of law school for about
7 a week at that time, so I proceeded to call. Of course, I
8 mentioned that I was calling on behalf of Bob Schmuhl and
9 that Bob Schmuhl had asked me to call.

10 After the laughter stopped from the other end of
11 the phone, and John Pirri, again, inquired as to my
12 relationship with Mr. Schmuhl, he proceeded to discuss his
13 opinion with respect to the trust. I mean, after all, there
14 was a great likelihood that this document would some day be
15 challenged by his office.

16 That was the kind of relationship Bob Schmuhl had
17 with even the tax guys. He was so highly respected by,
18 first of all, the Estate and Gift Tax Department of the IRS,
19 that on numerous occasions they would call him with
20 questions, especially dealing with estates that were being
21 administered in Prince George's County. He was the one to
22 call.

23 Secondly, his services did extend above and beyond
24 the practice of law. His practice of law was about much
25 more than making money. He was a true believer in the

1 saying that it's better to have a rich soul than to be rich.
2 He typified the true southern gentleman. He worked long
3 hours and cared tremendously about the welfare of his
4 clients.

5 In the last three months since his passing, I have
6 worked closely with the family in closing matters and, in
7 some instances, taking over his clients as a successor
8 attorney. Every single client has a special story to tell
9 about their relationship with Mr. Schmuhl.

10 Many of his clients have expressed to myself
11 and/or to the family how Mr. Schmuhl was someone who touched
12 them personally, how he handled their matter in a very
13 special way, and how they were grateful that they had the
14 opportunity to know Bob Schmuhl.

15 Now, those of us who are attorneys must admit that
16 it is very unique to hear that this level of gratitude
17 existed in our profession.

18 Bob Schmuhl was even considered a good luck charm
19 by one of his clients. I recently represented that client
20 in connection with some negotiations in which she was
21 attempting to purchase her brother's interest in a piece of
22 property the two of them had inherited from their mother.
23 Bob Schmuhl had represented this woman with respect to her
24 mother's estate.

25 It was only after the negotiations were successful

1 that she revealed to me that she believed that the matter
2 was resolved in her favor not because I was a competent
3 attorney but because she wore her lucky outfit. That outfit
4 she wore the same day she and Bob Schmuhl went to court to
5 resolve her mother's estate. He was truly a good luck charm
6 for us all.

7 Finally, he had a tremendous amount of knowledge
8 in the area of trusts and estates. He was a brilliant man
9 and a great thinker. All great thinkers see themselves as
10 authors, and Mr. Schmuhl was no different.

11 Many of you are aware of the treatise Decedents'
12 Estates in Maryland co-authored by Bob Schmuhl and Judge
13 Northrop. That estate practitioner hornbook came into
14 existence due to discussions Bob Schmuhl and Judge Northrop
15 had here in the courthouse.

16 Judge Northrop had recently attended a conference
17 of Orphans' Court judges, and he expressed to Mr. Schmuhl
18 his concern that they needed to find some way to consolidate
19 the opinions of the Orphans' Court. Not wanting to get beat
20 out by the big guys in Baltimore, Mr. Schmuhl suggested that
21 they write a book. At that courthouse meeting, the two of
22 them sat down and drafted the outline, and the rest is
23 history.

24 It is often said that a person's success in life
25 is not judged by how much wealth they have accumulated, but

1 by the lives they have touched and the light they have left.
2 Mr. Schmuhl's light was a star and continues to shine. His
3 torch will be carried by myself and many others.

4 I leave you with this quote from Henry Adams. "A
5 teacher affects eternity; he could never tell where his
6 influence stops."

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE LEVIN: If it please the Court, this
9 concludes the tributes to our departed brethren. To the
10 members of the family that are present, our president has a
11 green plant, which is an everlasting plant, to present to
12 each member of the family.

13 I think the reason that they make me chairman of
14 this particular function in the Bar Association is that I
15 came to Prince George's County 40 years ago from a firm
16 downtown -- when I say downtown, I mean Washington, D. C. --
17 and I personally knew everyone that has been memorialized
18 and practiced law with all of them.

19 They were all fine attorneys. Not only were they
20 fine, they were outstanding attorneys, and we, as a bar
21 association and as a community, shall miss them all.

22 Accordingly, Chief Judge Woods, I respectfully
23 move that this Court adjourn in memory of our deceased
24 brethren, and that the minutes of each departed brethren be
25 forwarded to their respective families.

1 JUDGE WOODS: Judge Levin, accepting as an
2 amendment to Judge McCullough's motion, the Court does
3 direct that these memorials presented be spread upon the
4 permanent records of this Court, and that the court reporter
5 transcribe each of the eulogies and distribute copies to the
6 families of those colleagues we are honoring today.

7 Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our departed brethren,
8 you may announce adjournment.

9 (Whereupon, at 5:00 p.m., the proceedings were
10 concluded.)
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