

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

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4 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

5

MEMORIAL SERVICE

6

FOR

7

PATRICIA J. GLASER

8

LLOYD E. JAMES, SR.

9

JOHN B. KENKEL

10

STEPHEN A. MARKEY

11

HONORABLE JAMES M. REA

12

BENJAMIN R. WOLMAN

13

EUGENE J. YANNON

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

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3:00 P.M.

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COURTROOM 300M

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COURTHOUSE

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UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

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Evadney R. Key

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Official Court Reporter

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PROCEDINGS

10 JUDGE MCKEE: Welcome, ladies and gentlemen.

11 Today we gather, as we have for many years, to honor our
12 colleagues, associates, and friends who have passed on.
13 The Court is honored to welcome the friends and the
14 families, as well as the guests, of those who we will be
15 remembering today.

16 I want to recognize our honorable colleague from
17 the Court of Special Appeals, Jim Salmon, who said he
18 would be more than glad to sit here, except his robe was
19 holey, as well as the other judges that are here. I know
20 I'm going to miss some honored people, but I know I saw
21 earlier a retired judge from the Court of Appeals, my good
22 friend, Al Blackwell, is here, and Bud Marshall is also
23 here. Jack Garrity is here. And we also have a brother
24 of one of those that we're honoring, retired Judge James
25 Kenkel from the United States District Court for the

1 District of Maryland is here also. We welcome you.

2 We're here to honor Patricia Glaser, Lloyd
3 James, Sr., John Kenkel, Stephen Markey, James Rea,
4 retired judge, Benjamin Wolman, and Eugene Yannon.

5 The Court recognizes the President-elect of the
6 Prince George's County Bar Association, Todd Pounds.

7 TODD POUNDS: Good afternoon. On behalf of the
8 Bar Association, I want to share Judge McKee's welcome of
9 everyone to this memorial service for those members of the
10 Bar who have recently passed.

11 Every year we want to, on behalf of the Bar, say
12 a special thank you to both Donna Cole Smith and Cathy
13 Cooke for their tireless work and effort to put this
14 together every year.

15 I want to turn this over to the chairman of the
16 Memorial Committee, the Honorable Judge Vincent Femia.

17 JUDGE FEMIA: Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,
18 this is, indeed, a memorial service. But more than a
19 memorial service, really, what it is is a celebration of
20 our colleagues going on. I put most of this together and
21 I probably, more than anybody in this room, really
22 appreciate these folks. I always tease Ms. Cole Smith and
23 say we had a committee meeting last night and decided on
24 the verbiage and things like that. I'm the committee.

25 The point of the matter is I have gotten to

1 relive a lot of wonderful memories dealing with the seven
2 people. I must say six people, because I didn't know Ms.
3 Glaser.

4 Lloyd James, whom I took the bar with -- and, by
5 the way, Lloyd always looked that old. Even when we were
6 in law school, he looked that old, right on through to
7 Eugene Yannon with whom I talked, a lot of memories for
8 me; but, more importantly, the individual memories that
9 I'm going to ask the various presenters to bring to your
10 attention.

11 We'll start out with Judge Frank Kratovil and
12 ask him to say a few words on behalf of Ms. Glaser.

13 JUDGE KRATOVIL: Patricia Glaser was born in
14 Oklahoma City. She and her family moved to New York and
15 subsequently to Prince George's County when her father was
16 employed with the FBI.

17 She graduated from the University of Maryland in
18 TV and radio training and eventually worked as a secretary
19 for a law firm in Washington, D.C. She graduated from the
20 University of Maryland and graduated from Catholic
21 University Law School.

22 That's like a thumbnail sketch of Pat Glaser,
23 but, like a lot of these memorial services, it doesn't
24 really tell you very much about her.

25 I have observed on prior occasions that although

1 we practice together and have cases together and know each
2 other and go to conventions and bar meetings together, we
3 really don't know each other all that well.

4 One of the best examples I can think of was I
5 was in a memorial service with friends eulogizing a member
6 of the bar who was a relatively tall, slim man with gray
7 hair and a mustache, very quiet gentlemanly fellow who
8 appeared very gentle, and found out that he had been a
9 combat leader in the Korean War and was a highly decorated
10 and very aggressive leader of a platoon, so I didn't know
11 anything about it. It was Bob Schmuhl, who everyone would
12 say Bob Schmuhl, aggressive? It's just something you
13 never really thought about. In some respects, that was
14 true.

15 Pat Glaser, she was a member of the St. Ambrose
16 Church and was married for 36 years to her husband, Jerry,
17 and had two children, Jenny and Kathy, who I believe are
18 here today. She was a devoted wife and mother, and I
19 think she really felt she could do more than just be a
20 wife and a mother, and she came to work for me in 1981 as
21 a legal secretary.

22 I know a lot of you who are in private practice
23 who are here are familiar with the term, super secretary.
24 That's what she was. She was a super secretary. She
25 could handle a client, handle the books, took care of the

1 collection cases, took care of scheduling our trials. She
2 had contact indirectly with the judges. She knew most of
3 the secretaries and a lot of the law clerks.

4 She kept in touch with my clients and kept the
5 office running. She bought supplies. And when I had
6 associates, as I did periodically, she handled them, as
7 well, so she was truly a wonderful secretary and did much
8 more than just the typing skills.

9 I think the only client that ever bothered her
10 was the young man that I represented in juvenile court who
11 appeared before Judge Femia and eventually he was sent off
12 to -- at that time they had a camp down in Texas and they
13 sent him to the camp in Texas. He was kind of a scary
14 guy. The next time we heard from him, he was at Landover
15 Mall holding hostages and barricaded himself there.

16 So he did bother her a little bit; but, for the
17 most part, she was able to handle just about anybody that
18 came in the door and was very skilled at doing so.

19 But I think Pat always felt that she could
20 achieve more. And although she didn't verbalize it that
21 much, it was always clear to me that she had additional
22 ambitions, and she talked to me about going to law school
23 and I encouraged her to do that, but she had to work
24 things out at home and she did that. And she then entered
25 Catholic University Law School and graduated from that and

1 eventually became my associate for a short period of time,
2 after which she opened an office in Cheverly and handled
3 estates and trusts and a few domestic cases and some civil
4 litigation.

5 The thing about Pat was you say when you
6 persevere, you just have to stick to your guns. But the
7 thing is you need to have loaded guns, as someone once
8 said. She did. She had ability, she had ambition, she
9 had integrity, and she had dedication. And as a result of
10 that, she succeeded.

11 She was an elected member of the Cheverly City
12 Council and was the vice mayor for about ten years, the
13 only woman who had ever held that position.

14 Besides her practice, she also spent some
15 volunteer time at the hospice in Prince George's County
16 and the Meals on Wheels. She was a very dedicated person.
17 And I remember a philosopher vocalist named Lou Reed who
18 said you've got to have a bus load of faith to get by --
19 that was one of his sayings -- and Pat Glaser had a bus
20 load. She had religious faith, family faith, and she had
21 faith in herself. It's one of the reasons why she was so
22 very successful.

23 Pat Glaser was not just an exceptional woman;
24 she was an exceptional person, and I recommend her to you
25 all.

1 JUDGE FEMIA: I would like to ask Carlton Green if
2 he would be kind enough to come up and say a few words
3 about Lloyd James.

4 CARLTON GREEN: It's a pleasure to be here to
5 remember other fellow lawyers. And as we go through these
6 memorials, we each have a picture of what that picture was
7 like. In some cases, they're very different memories.

8 Lloyd James was a friend of mine. I came to
9 help him in several instances and got to know him very
10 well. I was the last one to see him alive over at the
11 Doctors Hospital when he died. I was over there trying to
12 help him further.

13 But I took some time to prepare some remarks. I
14 generally don't read things, but I do want to read this to
15 all of you because I think it applies to all of us.

16 As one listens to these memorials, one is
17 reminded of the relationship each of us has had with that
18 person. In some cases, what is said really captures what
19 that person was like, and in others you wonder if that
20 person is talking about the same individual that you knew.

21 That's to lawyers, in general. None will be
22 long remembered by his or her client for a particularly
23 eloquent argument or a perfectly tried case. What a
24 client remembers more than anything is the sincerity, the
25 real care and attention given to the matter, whether the

1 lawyer was there in the time of need and whether the
2 result was good or bad.

3 What other lawyers most often remember is
4 whether the person returned telephone calls, was easy to
5 work with, knew what he was talking about, whether he or
6 she could be trusted and how formidable an adversary that
7 person was.

8 Many of us can vividly recall what happened in a
9 particular case no matter how long ago it took place, and
10 have good memories of what transpired between counsel in
11 resolving what was then at issue. Friends and families
12 have their own memories which usually have little to do
13 with what the legal career was of that individual.

14 Each of the lawyers and judges in this courtroom
15 may one day ask themselves how he or she would like to be
16 remembered with respect to their activities as lawyers or
17 judges, what qualities, what achievements, what is worthy
18 of mentioning on his or her behalf in a memorial service
19 such as this. And I was asked to talk about Lloyd James.

20 I knew him for the 35 years I practiced law. He
21 did his job, I did mine, and our paths crossed time and
22 again. My memory of him is he always tried to say hello.
23 He was one to try and settle and resolve matters in a
24 friendly, practical, common sense way. More than anything
25 else, the memory I have of him is that he tried his best

1 to help the people who sought his help. And what did he
2 achieve? He practiced law over 40 years. He was honest,
3 he was trustworthy in all his endeavors. He adhered to
4 the ethical standards expected of a lawyer and managed to
5 do his job as a lawyer for his clients, no matter what
6 obstacles he had to overcome.

7 No one of us wins every case. Each of us has to
8 overcome adversity and move on. It is the challenge every
9 day to do the best one can do to meet whatever challenge
10 that is presented and to overcome the obstacles. Lloyd
11 James did this his entire legal career for a period
12 exceeding 40 years. He was proud of this, and it is for
13 these achievements that he should be remembered.

14 I offer my comments in his memory and
15 respectfully request they be permanently preserved with
16 the records of the court. Thank you.

17 JUDGE FEMIA: At this time, I would like to ask
18 Mr. Sasscer to memorialize and speak on behalf of John
19 Kenkel, who passed away this year.

20 LANSDALE SASSCER: Honorable members of the
21 court, members of the family and friends of our late
22 colleagues whom we honor today, it's a pleasure, albeit a
23 sad one, for me to speak in remembrance and celebration of
24 the life of John Kenkel, a gifted attorney who died last
25 June peaceably at home with Grace, his loving wife of many

1 years, and his devoted sons, David and Jeffrey, at his
2 side.

3 Jack, as John was called by family and friends,
4 was one of the nicest people I have known. Every aspect
5 of his engaging personality was admirable. We became good
6 friends after law school at the time when we were both
7 active with the Young Democrats. I followed in Jack's
8 footsteps as president and saw his people skills at close
9 hand.

10 He was not only very popular among his peers,
11 but also was highly regarded by those of the older
12 generation who were active in the political life of our
13 county at the time.

14 Jack was a member of a family of achievers who
15 were also very civic minded. Mrs. Kenkel, Sr., for
16 example, was active in supporting scouting. Among her
17 scouting activities was being den mother for cub scouts.
18 She spoke to the youngsters about their duty to other
19 people, to be helpful, and of goodwill and the duty to
20 always do one's best. She would be delighted to know that
21 one of her cubs grew up to be a judge of the District
22 Court of our county, Judge Brown.

23 Jack is survived by three brothers, two of them,
24 Joseph and Bill, distinguished themselves in the field of
25 education. Dr. Joseph Kenkel, I believe who is with us

1 today with his wife, Lois, had the pleasure of teaching
2 American History to Judge Spellbring at the University of
3 Scranton. Dr. Kenkel, you taught him well.

4 The third brother, our colleague, Jim, is the
5 past president of the Bar Association. Jim, now retired
6 and living in Virginia, has served our County and State
7 with distinction as Deputy State's Attorney for Prince
8 George's and as Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District
9 Court for the District of Maryland. Jim and Janice are
10 also with us today.

11 To go back to Jack, I borrow a phrase from
12 George M. Cohan, the popular writer of popular songs. He
13 was a real live nephew of his Uncle Sam. For on the
14 morning after the infamous attack on our ships at Pearl
15 Harbor on December 7th, Jack and his brother, Philip, both
16 teenagers, enlisted in the Navy. They were among the very
17 earliest pair of brothers to join up. Their photograph
18 was published in Look Magazine with an article entitled,
19 "Why America Cannot Lose."

20 Jack was trained to be a radio man and was
21 assigned to destroyers doing convoy duty on the Atlantic
22 and the Mediterranean. He performed well and was selected
23 for the Navy's V-12 program for officers training at Darby
24 After the war, Jack was recruited by the OSS of the War
25 Department, forerunner to the CIA.

1 After serving overseas with the agency, he
2 returned to its office in the Washington area. There, he
3 had the good fortune to meet his dear Grace, who was with
4 the agency.

5 I marvel at Jack's conscientiousness and
6 stamina. He worked the 11:30 p.m. to the 7:30 a.m. night
7 shift at the agency while attending day classes at George
8 Washington Law School and graduated with honors. During
9 this time, he also wrote articles for the Law Review.

10 Jack began his practice with the firm, Miller &
11 Schroeder, specializing in administrative law,
12 particularly communications law. Over the years the firm
13 evolved into Kenkel & Associates, the name of the firm at
14 the time of his retirement.

15 Jack was an active practitioner before the
16 Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications
17 Commission.

18 In the course of his practice, he had the
19 pleasure of being attorney for his hometown, Bladensburg.
20 Older members of the Bar will remember the splendid job
21 Jack did as general counsel for Washington Suburban
22 Sanitary Commission, now one of the ten largest wastewater
23 and utilities administration.

24 I was with the Prince George's delegation during
25 some of the period when Jack would bring to Annapolis the

1 Commission's legislative program. The bills that he
2 prepared were always well crafted and his presentation
3 most impressive.

4 Jack believed in community service. He was a
5 charter member and a past president of the Bladensburg
6 Lions Club.

7 We remember Jack not only as a lawyer who
8 performed at the top of his game throughout his
9 distinguished career, but also for the quality of his
10 character.

11 I join my fellow members of the Bar Association
12 in extending our deepest sympathy to the Kenkel family.

13 I respectfully request that these remarks be
14 made a permanent part of the record of these proceedings.
15 Thank you.

16 JUDGE FEMIA: Next, I want to call upon Judge
17 Blackwell, former associate of, as all of us were friends
18 of, Stephen Markey.

19 JUDGE BLACKWELL: Chief Judge McKee and fellow
20 members of the bench, if I might call you that, fellow
21 members. I would like to, before I begin, say that we all
22 owe Vince Femia a special thanks for the services that he
23 perform. This is an old tradition that goes on for some
24 time with our Bar Association, and I don't think that it's
25 done in too many Bar Associations. But Vince has done a

1 marvelous job. He's put together a booklet that will be a
2 good memorial for the families who are here.

3 I'm here to say a few words on behalf of Stephen
4 Markey, who died in February of this year. Steve was 71
5 years of age or 70 years of age at that time. And all
6 those who have commented to me since that time have
7 remarked about how young he looked and they couldn't
8 believe that Steve was really 70 years of age.

9 He was a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts,
10 where I believe his brother at one time was mayor. And
11 Steve graduated from Stonehill College in Easton,
12 Massachusetts in 1955. He served a tour in the Army and
13 settled in this area around 1960.

14 He worked for a time for his uncle's travel
15 service in Towson, Maryland, and he had a love for travel
16 that was second to none, because that was his main desire
17 in his spare time.

18 Steve worked subsequently as an adjuster for
19 Government Employees Insurance Company and also for
20 Hartford Insurance Company at one time. While going to
21 school, he attended law school at night with a family, and
22 in 1968, he graduated from the University of Baltimore Law
23 School.

24 He came to work at our firm, Couch & Miller, in
25 1968, roughly, 1970, and his office was around the corner

1 from mine. So I got to know Steve not only as a fellow
2 lawyer but as a friend, and I felt about Steve like I
3 would about a brother. We discussed our cases and our
4 other problems, and he was always good counsel.

5 When our firm dissolved because of members going
6 on the bench or passing on, Steve continued the practice
7 as a sole practitioner with an associate, Keith Parris,
8 and also with Vail Kaufman for a period of time.

9 Most of his legal practice days he handled civil
10 defense cases and specialized in personal injury and
11 criminal defense. Outside of the practice of law, Steve
12 was active in his church in Laurel and was a member of the
13 Knights of Columbus and the Sons of Italy. He maintained
14 a close relationship with his alma mater, Stonehill
15 College, and was named an outstanding alumnus with efforts
16 to assist the college over the years.

17 Steve is survived by his wife, Mary Filipetti,
18 and five children. And his son, Stephen Markey, III, is a
19 practicing attorney in Baltimore County with offices in
20 Bel Air, Maryland.

21 Steve had a special relationship with most of
22 his clients. And one that I particularly would like to
23 call to your attention was he represented a gentleman who
24 was a deaf mute. And being as meticulous as he was, he
25 spent the better part of two years preparing that case for

1 trial, because it was a malpractice case and he knew it
2 was going to have to be tried, because the doctor denied
3 any wrongdoing.

4 Because the client was a deaf mute, Steve took
5 it upon himself to learn sign language, and over a period
6 of two years, he prepared the client for courtroom
7 testimony and also for his behavior in court. After
8 successfully completing the case, and successfully so,
9 Steve and his client continued their relationship.

10 Because the client's disability was his right
11 arm and because he was a deaf mute, he couldn't speak. He
12 used sign language and Steve learned it. Steve became
13 adept at communicating left handed with the sign language.

14 Steve was truly the proverbial all-American boy
15 and all-American father and all-American grandfather.

16 As I say, I thought of Steve as a younger
17 brother and I sorely miss him and, I'm sure, so do his
18 family members who are here. Thank you.

19 JUDGE MCKEE: Thank you, Judge Blackwell.

20 JUDGE FEMIA: Next, I call upon Judge Sothoron
21 for a few remarks about your colleague, Judge Rea, who
22 passed away this year also.

23 JUDGE SOTHORON: Chief Judge McKee and my
24 colleagues, even you, too, Judge Spellbring, I have a
25 smile on my face because I can't help but smile when I

1 think of Jimmie Rea. Judge Femia did a very fine job in
2 giving you some insight as to his background, but I choose
3 not to talk about Judge Rea, the judge. I'm going to talk
4 about Judge Rea, the person.

5 He came to Upper Marlboro with his wife, Evelyn,
6 in 1958. He was born in Bladensburg. What is not said in
7 the bibliography was that Judge Rea graduated from college
8 at age 18. He went to three different law schools and
9 finally graduated from University of Maryland Law School,
10 because somebody thought it was better to graduate from a
11 Maryland law school if he was going to practice law in
12 Maryland, so that's what he did.

13 When he came to Upper Marlboro in 1958, I was,
14 at that point in time, 14, and my sister was the
15 babysitter for James and Susan, and I don't think Amy and
16 Mary may have been around at that point in time. And my
17 father and mother double dated with Jimmie Rea and Evelyn
18 Rea. I can imagine just the times they had in those days.

19 Judge Rea was, indeed, a fixture in Upper
20 Marlboro. Isn't it unbelievably ironic we had the fire in
21 the courthouse in the last two, three weeks. All the
22 media was here interviewing everybody, but the one person
23 who knew more about that courthouse in Upper Marlboro was
24 Judge Rea. He could have given everybody a history lesson
25 right on the spot without being asked to do so. He

1 probably knew the Magna Carta was buried somewhere in that
2 courthouse, as far as I'm concerned.

3 He became a judge in 1968 and served with Judge
4 McGrath. I was privileged to be one of the last
5 prosecutors to sit with Judge McGrath. I asked what time
6 of day it was once. He said it's too bad your parents
7 spent all that money sending you to law school, because
8 you're not going to amount to anything.

9 But Judge Rea was one of the first District
10 Court judges when the People's Court became the District
11 Court. He was known as somebody that was just Jimmie Rea
12 to everybody. He didn't have any sense of titles or
13 special treatment or anything of that nature.

14 When I wrote about Judge Rea in the Bar
15 Newsletter, I used descriptions of unpretentious,
16 thoughtful, even-tempered and accommodating. He was all
17 that plus more. He was a gem of a person. You wouldn't
18 want to change anything about Judge Rea, except maybe
19 checking his feet to see if he had been out in the horse
20 pasture before he came to court in the morning.

21 He had two horses that were winners. When he
22 had his retirement party, Judge Blackwell was one of his
23 favorite neighbors, as well as one of the speakers. We
24 were able to get a clip of that one race horse win in
25 Delaware Park, I think it was. That was, as Andy Warhol

1 would say, Judge Rea's two-and-a-half minutes of glory.
2 But I think he had two winners. He never needed a winner
3 in a race horse to be a winner in everybody's life that
4 knew him.

5 I guess Jimmie Rea was probably more
6 accommodating than any other judge on the bench. I know
7 Judge McKee is one of his neighbors, too. He treated all
8 lawyers, regardless of where they came from, with absolute
9 civility and dignity. His anecdotes were infamous.

10 There were instances where he had criminal cases
11 and he had a defendant in front of him; that defendant had
12 maybe committed the horrible sin of taking somebody's farm
13 machinery or something like that. That made Judge Rea
14 want to tell him how precious farm machinery was to
15 farmers, especially those in Southern Maryland. As the
16 sentencing progresses, Judge Rea would get off on a
17 tangent and he would start talking about the British
18 coming up the Patuxent River, coming to Upper Marlboro.

19 Dr. Mudd's house is right by the County
20 Administration Building; and when they kidnapped Dr. Mudd
21 and of course the story goes, for those of you history
22 buffs, he was on the same boat when Frances Scott Key
23 wrote the Star Spangled Banner. But the defendant got
24 antsy and started tugging at his lawyer's coattails and
25 said, "Can you just go on with the sentencing? This is

1 cruel and unusual just for me to sit here alone." But
2 Judge Rea wouldn't be stopped. He wanted to let that
3 defendant know before he went up the river the whole story
4 about the British marching on Washington, D.C.

5 Another instance would be a situation where he
6 would have a defendant whose name he recognized. And,
7 before you know it, Judge Rea started pontificating about
8 the defendant's background and he knew more about the
9 defendant's background than the defendant himself before
10 he was sentenced.

11 Judge Blackwell, who was just here a second ago,
12 had mentioned to Judge Rea, years after he had been
13 widowed, that a good place to meet women is down at the
14 produce counter at Super Fresh in Upper Marlboro. So can
15 you imagine Judge Rea going down to the produce counter,
16 going up to produce and going through the melons or
17 something like that and saying, "Well, young lady, can I
18 assist you with your melons?" or something of that nature.
19 Sure enough, he met a lady and dated her for some time,
20 and he met her at the fresh produce counter at Super
21 Fresh.

22 Judge Blackwell, we want to thank you for that
23 bit of advice you gave to Judge Rea.

24 My favorite anecdote. When I was practicing in
25 1979, I had a case in District Court. My father had been

1 widowed. We had a part-time housekeeper. And she was a
2 wonderful housekeeper, but she had a little problem with
3 the sauce, so she got arrested for driving while
4 intoxicated. Of course, the bar system was alive and
5 well, so I represented her without charge. I,
6 fortunately, had Judge Rea as judge in the District Court.

7 I see a young prosecutor named David Simpson,
8 fresh out of Notre Dame, who Bud Marshall hired as a
9 prosecutor. So I did what any wise prosecutor should. I
10 said, can we approach the bench. The judge said,
11 "Richard, that was a nice party last week." I guess it
12 was. Dave Simpson was looking at me, like, what's going
13 on? I said, "Judge Rea, I have a special problem. My
14 father's housekeeper got arrested for driving while
15 intoxicated. I really can't have her go to jail, because
16 my father needs her home. If she doesn't show up, my
17 father is not going to have meals to eat." He said, wait
18 a minute. He says, "Mr. State's Attorney, what do you
19 think about that?" Dave Simpson, young prosecutor, said,
20 "I just don't know what to say."

21 Judge Rea looked over his shoulder and said, "Is
22 that Mary over there?" And I said, well, yes, it is.
23 Dave Simpson said, "Who is Mary?" Judge Rea said, "That's
24 my housekeeper's daughter. What are you talking about, as
25 far as that's concerned?" Needless to say, we had a very

1 good result in court that day.

2 Judge Rea truly makes me smile. He was a
3 lovely, lovely man and I'm very fortunate, as are many of
4 my colleagues here who either sat with him or practiced
5 law in front of him, as are a number of people in the
6 audience who can honestly say when you went into his
7 courtroom, you left with a smile on your face. Your
8 client may not have left with you, but you left with a
9 smile on your face because he was such a pleasant,
10 pleasant person.

11 Isn't it appropriate that Louis Goldstein was
12 the speaker at Judge Rea's retirement party; because when
13 I think of somebody who is truly a treasure to serve
14 Maryland, especially Upper Marlboro, I think of James Rea.
15 And the only other person I can compare him with would be
16 Lloyd Goldstein. They were true gems. They don't make it
17 any better than that. The only sad part of today is the
18 young lawyers who are practicing today will never get a
19 chance to know Jimmie Rea.

20 If I can simply borrow a phrase from Lloyd
21 Goldstein, he would say God bless you all real well. God
22 bless Jimmie Rea. We love you.

23 JUDGE FEMIA: Truly a gentle man.

24 I would ask Ken Watson to come on up and say
25 some words on behalf of Ben Wolman. Those of you would

1 probably know Judge Watson when he made an honest living
2 here on Main Street as an associate.

3 JUDGE WATSON: I hope somebody remembers me. I
4 used to be in your midst and I had the good fortune back
5 then to work with Ben Wolman. It's my honor and privilege
6 to speak in his memory.

7 Ben was a friend, a colleague, a mentor, and
8 here I am speaking to his professional peers, some of the
9 people he respected the most.

10 Words are not adequate to describe exactly how
11 good a lawyer he really was. He was a master of what's
12 called it's a small firm, small town practice. I don't
13 have to tell some of you that's not the easiest road to
14 hoe. He brought a lot of common sense to his practice.
15 He knew that in a small town practice, all the answers
16 weren't books. Sometimes it's just a matter of putting
17 the right people together, sometimes the matter of finding
18 the right judge, sometimes the matter of finding the right
19 government official to talk to, so he brought the most
20 uncommon of virtues to his work, and that is good
21 old-fashioned common sense.

22 This isn't to say he wasn't a brilliant legal
23 mind. He was one of the best in determining the proper
24 law and principles in trying to apply them. He was a
25 master practitioner and strategist in the courtroom. Some

1 of his techniques were so subtle, you would have to
2 reflect on them after the fact to understand what they
3 were doing. Some weren't so subtle.

4 Sometimes he would be in the courtroom and his
5 opposing counsel was having trouble getting his exhibits
6 together, his documents, so Ben would say, "I know the
7 case, Your Honor, let me help." He would go over there
8 and stand over the lawyer's shoulder, whisper in his ears,
9 fiddle with the papers. Of course when all of this was
10 over, the guy was more confused than ever. But he always
11 was a gentleman, always tried to be polite to his
12 professional colleagues in the court. As one of my former
13 colleagues described him, he was politely aggressive. I
14 think that sums it up very nicely.

15 Of course, he worked himself to exhaustion for
16 some of his clients. He got emotionally involved with
17 some of his clients' cases perhaps to his detriment at
18 times, but you could never question his caring or
19 commitment.

20 It's difficult to describe all the contributions
21 Ben made to the profession and his community. He was a
22 war hero. He taught at the university. He was a chairman
23 of the Compensation Board, Assistant State's Attorney for
24 many years.

25 His first love, of course, was representing

1 police officers. Ben identified with police officers,
2 empathized with all the men and women who had the unique
3 stressors to face because of the very nature of their job.

4 You would recall Governor Mandel put him on a
5 commission to propose the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of
6 Rights. Indeed, Ben actually crafted most of that code.
7 You probably are aware it's basically a compendium of
8 rights and procedures that give a police officer basic
9 employment protections in a workplace that's often too
10 pressurized, too dangerous, and sometimes even too highly
11 politicized. So police officers needed these rights; Ben
12 saw that they got them. This was the first code of its
13 kind adopted in the country, as I understand it, and
14 served as a model for some of our sister states that
15 adopted this sort of code. I think this will stand as a
16 lasting monument to Ben and will endure for many years.

17 Ben could be tough. I don't have to tell you
18 all sometimes you have to be tough in this business. You
19 probably remember him standing there with his baseball cap
20 and a police logo on his short and reflective shades and a
21 pipe. You would have to look twice or you would think
22 Douglas McArthur came back from the surf. We all know
23 this was just an image. Deep down he was a kind and
24 gentle soul.

25 When I had a personal tragedy, when I worked

1 with him, I found many of his clients ended up being close
2 friends with him. I can't say this was a pattern I
3 observed duplicated with many lawyers. Maybe it's because
4 he was such a good companion.

5 We probably all remember him presiding over the
6 kite flying he held on the farm or holding forth as the
7 president of the fan club out at the Baysox stadium. He
8 must have loved the Baysox, because half the team seemed
9 to live with him out on the farm during the season.

10 Ben was an animal lover. There were Mary's
11 horses. He had all these dogs. There were the horse
12 shows, and sometimes his affection extended to artificial
13 species.

14 I remember the time he went to the dump to get
15 rid of excess law books. There was this big stuffed pink
16 gorilla sitting there looking forlorn, but Ben took pity
17 on the thing, took it back to the office, and there it sat
18 with him for the next ten years. He let me bring my
19 little mop of a dog in the office sometimes. It would run
20 around, jump on secretaries' laps, nip the clients' heels.
21 Ben thought this was hilarious. It wasn't necessarily
22 consistent with traditional law office decorum, but Ben
23 wasn't going to run a stuffy office. He always wanted to
24 be and he was, to the end, a country lawyer in the best
25 sense of that term.

1 So he was a great friend, good companion, a
2 mentor, but I think his biggest asset is he found this
3 nice Texas lady once, brought her back to Maryland. They
4 stayed together through thick and thin, through the ups
5 and downs of life; one of the best marriages I've ever
6 seen. Mary, if I'm not mistaken, today, November 18,
7 2004, would have been Ben's 75th birthday; am I correct?

8 So let's raise the imaginary birthday toast to
9 our old friend and colleague, Ben Wolman. He's sorely
10 missed and his likes won't be seen again. Thank you very
11 much.

12 JUDGE FEMIA: Thank you, Ken.

13 JUDGE MCKEE: Thank you, Ken.

14 JUDGE FEMIA: Next and last, I would like to
15 call upon John Yannon to say some words on behalf of
16 Eugene Yannon, the brother of Gene Yannon.

17 JOHN YANNON: Good afternoon. I am Gene's
18 brother, and Gene was 15 years my senior, a fact of which
19 I always liked to remind him. When I followed his lead
20 and graduated from law school, he gave me my first job as
21 his law clerk, and that launched me into my legal career
22 and gave me a leg up. We enjoyed very much working
23 together and sharing the same career throughout the years.
24 I know working together, Gene always relished when someone
25 asked if we were twins or asked who the older brother was.

1 I reminded him, naturally, that they were just being
2 polite.

3 As I have reflected on the 42 years that I
4 shared with my brother, it's hard to distill one's life
5 into a few thoughts. How does one capture the essence of
6 someone? In other words, what is the true measure of a
7 person?

8 My thoughts came around to the words, the true
9 measure of a man is how he acts in the face of adversity.
10 How, when tested by adversity, do you react? Because it
11 is easy to be a good person, of course, when times are
12 good and life is easier. But what is the true character
13 of a person when tested?

14 Gene was faced with the adversity of a
15 non-curable form of cancer known as multiple myeloma, a
16 disease which he knew in all likelihood will not end well
17 for him. He displayed his true character. He acted with
18 integrity and dignity and, in so doing, he seamlessly
19 carried on his avocation, that of teacher. He taught us
20 by example to fight the good fight, be passionate about
21 the things you believe in and be compassionate in your
22 dealings with others. And this comes as no surprise to
23 all of us who knew him, because these attributes so
24 naturally displayed during his time of adversity were the
25 attributes that were his foundation and guided him always.

1 In his professional life he was a teacher. He
2 taught at Prince George's Community College. He taught to
3 expand minds, to encourage participation in the discourse
4 and advance the quest for learning to help raise the next
5 generation to greatness.

6 He was a lawyer. He practiced law to help
7 others, to ensure that rights were protected and their
8 just cause pursued.

9 Gene, I always admired for his great intellect,
10 his great passion for the law and the fact that he
11 practiced it with integrity. He kept a very active,
12 involved and balanced life. Most important to him was
13 family; his lovely wife, Joan, and his daughter, Miranda.

14 Most of all, he was a true gentleman. The
15 comments that have come to me have been very heartening to
16 me about my brother's character from those who knew him
17 because of his warmth and his courtesy, attributes in this
18 profession that we all aspire to and that he surely lived.

19 I thank the honorable members of the bench, the
20 bar and Judge Femia, for this opportunity to speak on
21 behalf of my brother. I know that he would be very
22 appreciative of this outpouring on his behalf, and I know
23 that he would want me to thank those that he could not
24 thank himself in his waning time when he was sick and was
25 not around to do so himself. So on his behalf, I thank

1 you and I thank you, as does his wife, Joan, and Miranda,
2 for this opportunity.

3 JUDGE MCKEE: Thank you, John.

4 JUDGE FEMIA: Thank you, John.

5 Chief Judge McKee, thank God that's all we have
6 to memorialize this year. I would ask that you direct
7 that these remarks be spread upon the permanent record of
8 the court.

9 To everybody assembled, this memorial is not the
10 end. This is just to bring to light some of the things we
11 remember about these colleagues and that hopefully they're
12 going to live on in our memories. Thank you all for
13 assembling with us.

14 JUDGE MCKEE: Thank you, Judge Femia.

15 Like I mentioned earlier, my failing eyes, as
16 old as I am, I have missed a very important person who is
17 in the audience -- and I feel bad about that -- former
18 Chief Judge Bob Woods.

19 Judge Woods, thank you for being with us today.

20 The judges of this court are grateful to the
21 Prince George's County Bar Association for not only the
22 memorials that they have presented but to the committee
23 that's put it together and maintained this very fine
24 tradition. This is a rather unique tradition we have here
25 in Prince George's County. For as long as I can remember,

1 we can thank the Bar for the work and effort it has done.
2 It's appropriate that in a busy court such as this that we
3 take that time to pause and remember our brothers and our
4 sister who have passed from us but are not forgotten.

5 Many of us have enjoyed the pleasant and warm
6 personal relationships that we've had, and I have sat here
7 and I have listened and I can remember, as I'm sure all of
8 you, many of those relationships and experiences that
9 you've had with these very fine professionals.

10 The Court does direct that the memorials that
11 have been presented be spread upon the permanent record of
12 this court and that copies of said memorials be presented
13 the families.

14 In conclusion, Mr. Bailiff, and in honor of our
15 departed brothers and sisters, would you please announce
16 the adjournment of this court.

17 (The memorial was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.)

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