

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

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

JAMES R. BUCHER

C. CALVERT LANCASTER

RICHARD H. LOVE

JOHN MITCHELL

COL. RICHARD A. ROMINE

JAMES J.M. VAUGHAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

3:00 P.M.

COURTROOM 3400

COURTHOUSE

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

Debbie Walker Buford

Official Court Reporter

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 The Court convened en banc at 3:00 p.m. There
3 being present the Honorable LARNZELL MARTIN, JR,
4 Associate Judge; the Honorable SHEILA TILLERSON-ADAMS,
5 Associate Judge; the Honorable MICHAEL P. WHALEN,
6 Associate Judge; the Honorable MICHELE D. HOTTEN,
7 Associate Judge; the Honorable CATHY H. SERRETTE,
8 Associate Judge; the Honorable ALBERT W. NORTHRUP,
9 Associate Judge.

10 JUDGE MARTIN: Good afternoon. This special
11 session for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County
12 will now begin.

13 I'd want to say good afternoon to everyone we
14 know this is a special occasion for, and welcome on
15 behalf of the judges of the Seventh Judicial Circuit
16 Court, particularly Prince George's County.

17 I also want to welcome you on behalf of Judge
18 William D. Missouri. I'm sure Judge Missouri would
19 prefer to be here, however, he has been ill. He is
20 improving and it's in our best interests that he would
21 improve in order that he can rejoin us.

22 I want to recognize Judge Glenn Harrell of the
23 Court of Appeals, retired Judge Monty Ahalt, retired
24 Judge McKee. They are retired but are working; retired
25 Judge Richard Sothoron, members of our bench, and I am

1 finding out how difficult it is for Judge Missouri to
2 find people in the audience. I'm going to miss someone,
3 but joining me here on the bench are Judges Whalen, Judge
4 Hotten, Judge Adams, Judge Serrette, Judge Northrop,
5 Judge Toni Clarke has just walked in.

6 And Judge Adams, while Judge Missouri is away
7 has been designated as the acting administrative judge.
8 Judge Rattal will be playing a bigger role in a little
9 bit, Judge Nicholas Rattal.

10 Today we are gathered here, as we have for many
11 years, to honor our colleagues, associates and friends
12 that have passed on.

13 We are honored to welcome family, friends and
14 guests that are here to remember James Bucher,
15 C. Calvert Lancaster, Richard H. Love, John Mitchell,
16 Colonel Richard Romine, and James Vaughan. And is
17 Judge Nichols here? Judge Nichols is front of us.
18 Judge Nichols will be participating.

19 At this time the Court will recognize the
20 president of the Prince George's County Bar Association.
21 Our colleague, Judge Nicholas Rattal, Judge Rattal.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 JUDGE RATTAL: Good afternoon, and welcome,
24 Judge Harrell, colleagues of the Circuit Court, Judge of
25 the District Court, retired judges and distinguished

1 guests, members of the bar, family and friends of the
2 departed. Welcome all of you to the annual Prince
3 George's County Bar Association Memorial Service.

4 We gather each year in November at this
5 appropriate time to acknowledge the contributions made by
6 the attorneys to our legal community.

7 We come together in the ceremonial courtroom in
8 this big great courthouse to celebrate and give thanks to
9 the members of the bar who have left this life, for each
10 of them have contributed greatly to our legal community
11 and to the lives of those around them. Thank you all for
12 being here today in their honor. It is my pleasure and
13 privilege to introduce Mary Crawford, who will take over
14 from here.

15 MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you, Judge Rattal. My
16 name is Mary Crawford and it is my role to introduce to
17 you the gentlemen who have volunteered to be eulogists
18 for our fellow members of the bar who have passed away
19 during the past year.

20 I would like to thank everyone for being here
21 today. And I think it's appropriate at this time to
22 acknowledge Judge Femia, who I'm filling his shoes, not
23 not to the degree that he could have done it, but for
24 many years, Judge Femia organized this service, and I
25 just want to acknowledge his great contribution to the

1 bar association for his past efforts.

2 Our first eulogist is Philip Zuber, who will be
3 eulogizing attorney James R. Bucher.

4 MR. ZUBER: To the friends and colleagues of
5 Jim Bucher, it's my honor and privilege on behalf of the
6 firm to say a few words about my friend and my partner
7 Jim Bucher.

8 Jim spent most of his professional life at
9 14803 Pratt Street here in Upper Marlboro, just off Main
10 Street, next to what was then the jail. Wilson & Parlett
11 is in part of that building now.

12 From the front wood paneled reception area,
13 visitors to the firm would walk first by Jim Salmon's
14 office to the right, and to past Mr. Sasscer's office to
15 the left, and then down the dark wood paneled hallway.
16 They would walk past an open secretarial area on the left
17 where Gladys Duvall sat, then the bookkeeper, and the
18 only one it was said who was always to be feared.

19 Further down the hall, past the doorway to the
20 two room library, there was the doorway leading to
21 Hal Claggett's office, the passageway to which was
22 guarded by Dorothy Moore. Dorothy was my first
23 introduction to how a chief of staff runs interference
24 for the chief.

25 But the last door on the left was Jim's office.

1 Like the other offices, the walls were wood paneled, with
2 framed diplomas and bar admissions. With windows facing
3 south, Jim had an elevated view of the rear parking lot
4 that sloped away from the office. From there, Jim would
5 see the comings and goings of the staff and attorneys,
6 the daily march of prisoners from lock-up going over for
7 their afternoon bond hearing. And at one time, he told
8 me, the Frederick Douglas High School marching band.

9 Whether you were coming back to the office, up
10 the rear, black metal stairs or you left by the back
11 door, Jim's office always tidy, with a spare and clean
12 desk, was a place where you could always stop, share a
13 quip, a laugh or a few words.

14 When we began the practice of hiring young
15 persons to do copying and deliveries, usually a young
16 woman, they quickly learned that Jim's office was a place
17 of refuge. They were always there. He enjoyed the
18 attention as much as they.

19 Most know the public record about Jim, born
20 August 27, 1929, they say in Baltimore, but he said he
21 was not from Baltimore. He liked to remind us that back
22 then, just beyond Towson was really the country.

23 In 1946 he graduated from Franklin High School
24 in Reisterstown. He told us about what it was like to
25 work in the summer time in the Domino Sugar refinery in

1 Baltimore with the heat, the sounds, the odors all
2 indelibly etched in his memory.

3 Jim went to the University of Alabama. After
4 graduation he joined the army. Just two months later, on
5 May 9, 1953, he married Eileen Davies.

6 Jim a Korean War era soldier, who spent two
7 years in the Army, told us about serving in the Seattle
8 area where it seemed his love of the West, with its
9 mighty mountains and the endless skies, was spawned;
10 while driving down the Pacific Coast Highway on leave,
11 about traveling in military transport; something that
12 made you truly appreciate the comforts of commercial
13 aviation.

14 After being discharged from the Army with a
15 Reserve Commission as a first lieutenant, Jim attended
16 the law school at Catholic University.

17 He received his law degree in 1958, passed the
18 bar that year and began at Sasscer, Clagett & Powers on
19 September 1st, 1958. But before he became a lawyer, he
20 learned the lessons of the courthouse, toiling in the
21 record room, searching land titles and building
22 friendships and relationships that would last his law
23 career.

24 In those early years, Jim told us about doing
25 real estate settlements late into the night for new

1 communities that were being developed in places that were
2 called Palmer Park, and Seat Pleasant, although the firm
3 head, Congressman Landsdale Sasscer, died in 1964. Jim
4 often mentioned his towering presence and influence, who
5 he called with awe and admiration, "the Old Man."

6 Jim made partner on January 1, 1965. Soon
7 thereafter he was joined by Charlie Channing. The
8 channings and Buchers, as a have heard it, enjoyed
9 vacationing together at Bethany Beach. There were
10 stories of mad dashes into the surf at night. The
11 details were always left for the imagination.

12 Jim was not the warm and fuzzy type. He could
13 be blunt. He had no patience for the unpatriotic. You
14 can guess how conscientious, objectors fared in the Viet
15 Nam era where when they faced Mr. Bucher on the draft
16 board.

17 In a profession increasingly made up of lawyers
18 who only practice in well defined narrow areas, Jim did
19 everything; real estate, zoning, wills, probate
20 litigation, corporations and contracts.

21 When I joined the firm in 1980, Sasscer
22 Clagett, Channing & Bucher was also exclusively an
23 insurance defense firm.

24 One of the earliest lessons I learned, and I
25 learned a lot of them, was that if anyone had a question

1 about zoning or real estate, or wills or probate or
2 contracts or corporations or taxes, the answer was always
3 the same. Ask Bucher.

4 Years later, when something novel came into the
5 office, Jim was always willing to take it on, such as
6 asbestos litigation. He enjoyed saying that he had
7 defended more claims of wrongful death than anyone in the
8 state, based on a case where his client was accused of
9 causing the death of more than 50,000 chickens. The
10 poultry equivalent of the Bhopal incident.

11 In those days our insurance clients were
12 central to our existence. So on the first Saturday of
13 November, the firm would invite all of its insurance
14 clients to dinner at the Hunt Club; although catered, the
15 firm was expected to set the tables and chairs.

16 So, in the fall of my first year, being the
17 junior-most lawyer, I showed up early the Saturday
18 morning of the big dinner. I was soon accosted by
19 Mrs. Bucher, who thought I was someone employed by the
20 club. Without introduction, she crisply barked out
21 orders.

22 She soon sensed something was wrong. She asked
23 me a few probing questions and found out I was a lawyer
24 at the firm.

25 Shocked, she asked, "How long have you been

1 with the firm"? April, I replied. She shot back, "Why
2 didn't Jim tell me about you?" It was a question I could
3 not answer.

4 The following Monday, I asked Jim the same
5 question. His reply was simple. I only tell her what
6 she needs to know, that way I have less to explain.

7 The firm always had the gracious practice of
8 taking all the lawyers to lunch. The second lesson I
9 learned was that no matter where we went, the waitress
10 would know and genuinely like Jim, making sure that he
11 was taken care of. I never quite understood how he did
12 it, but Jim seemed to be able to charm most women he came
13 into contact with.

14 I tried to analyze what it was, and for a time
15 I thought that at least as to the waitresses, it must be
16 because he was the one who always paid using the firm
17 credit card. They had to be impressed with this guy
18 buying lunch every day for everyone with him.

19 In 1990, Jim and I began to talk regularly
20 about the benefits of a firm retreat to both straighten
21 out firm issues and plan and to provide a means to
22 socialize and get grievances on the table and resolved.
23 With his support and the softening up of the others on
24 the idea, the firm went on its first retreat in 1991.

25 We have had 18 retreats since. In 1994, the

1 firm took all of the lawyers and their spouses to the
2 Grand Caymans for seven days.

3 Given the practice of Jim paying for
4 everything, everyone put their room charges on his room,
5 4111. I will never forget the moment when Jim went to
6 the front desk to check out, the clerk, assuming the
7 typical check-out brought up Jim's room and found,
8 undoubtedly, one of the most impressive single room
9 charges in the history of the hotel.

10 The clerk's eyes bulged and the dot matrix
11 printer ground out a small phone book of charges. Yet
12 Jim said nothing, presented his credit card, and went his
13 way.

14 Waste or duplicity always brought out Jim's
15 blunt side. Not too long ago, with the bailout of AIG
16 and others, Jim wrote a letter to the Washington Post
17 which was published, which suggested that instead of the
18 bailout, and I'm quoting, "indict the thieves that put us
19 in this position and call for the forfeiture of their
20 unwarranted criminal gains, including the enablers in
21 Congress."

22 I guess that should give you a flavor of Jim.
23 Jim was unswervingly loyal and protective of the firm,
24 particularly if he thought that the firm was being duped.
25 And he could be creative.

1 When his wife Eileen developed health problems
2 and medical bills poured in, at our health insurance
3 renewal time, Jim posed some very specific questions to
4 our account representative. This ought to have all of
5 you to mind the health care debate. But after the
6 renewal, what he was told what was covered was not. So
7 what did he do with the next renewal? He invited our
8 account representative to come to the office to discuss
9 the renewal. He brought her down to the large conference
10 room. I was along with him. What awaited her was a
11 court reporter, who took down, verbatim, everything that
12 was said. It was quite a different conversation.

13 It was sometime in the late 1980s or 90s that
14 Jim started going to the Big Sky Dude Ranch in Montana.
15 Each time he came back from Montana, he was refreshed and
16 full of stories.

17 Not long thereafter his grandson started taking
18 him back there. He spoke often and openly and
19 affectionately about "the little fella."

20 Jim was selfless when it came to the firm. In
21 1997, the firm decided to build a new office and the move
22 involved a huge financial commitment, and only a very
23 uncertain distant reward. At his age Jim was never going
24 to see any benefit in any material way from this move.
25 Yet Jim did not hesitate. And he supported the move

1 completely.

2 In fact, as we were picking offices, based on
3 seniority, Jim insisted that I have the corner office,
4 looking over the Western Branch, a stream that he had
5 known for 50 years, as it snaked along the south side of
6 the courthouse. He explained, I'm not going to be here
7 as long as you.

8 Jim leaves behind 13 published opinions that
9 will forever bear his name as an advocate. When he left
10 active practice, he surrendered one of his most prized
11 possessions to one of the junior members of the firm, his
12 Sports Illustrated swimsuit collection with 3D glasses.
13 But Jim leaves behind much more, memories of many late
14 Friday afternoon laughs over a drink and after a long
15 week.

16 More importantly, he leaves behind memories of
17 his collegiality, his professionalism, honor, trust and
18 commitment, which were his hallmarks. That is what his
19 name stood for. Those who knew him knew that about him.
20 That is why I am proud to have known him and grateful to
21 serve in a law firm that bears his name, a name that will
22 long mean collegiality, professionalism, honor, trust and
23 commitment. Thank you.

24 MS. CRAWFORD: Our next eulogist is Master
25 David Rumsey, retired from the Circuit Court of Prince

1 George's County, who will be eulogizing Master C.
2 Calvert Lancaster.

3 MR. RUMSEY: Judge Martin and Judges of the
4 Court, it's an honor to be here to present this
5 memorialization of Charles Calvert "Cal" Lancaster.

6 Cal and I worked together in the Masters Office
7 for a period of about six years. Simultaneously, I'll
8 get into that a little bit more later on, Cal was born
9 January 18, 1922. He was a native Southern Marylander.
10 He attended Loyola College and, in fact, graduated from
11 Loyola College in either late 1941 or early 1942. He was
12 what you would refer to as an accelerated graduate and
13 his graduation was accelerated because of World War II,
14 which was at this point well under way.

15 As soon as he left Loyola College with his
16 degree, he went to Midshipman School at Notre Dame.

17 At Notre Dame, and interestingly while
18 preparing for a commission in the U.S. Navy at the
19 Midshipmans School at Notre Dame, he met his wife
20 Loretta.

21 She was a resident of South Bend, Indiana, and
22 worked with the USO. They became an item, and later
23 became married and lived together as husband and wife for
24 a period of about 60 years.

25 Cal served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 through

1 1946. During that time he was an LST, which if I
2 understand Navy terminology correctly, I'm sure Judge
3 Nichols does, is an Atlantic Ship Tank and that was in
4 the Pacific. He entered the Navy as an ensign, of
5 course, and later was promoted to Lieutenant JG.

6 He served with his ship in Leyte, the
7 Philipines, New Guinea and the Guadalcanal. I recognize
8 those names as places where the Navy believed large
9 amounts of mines for assault landings on those islands.

10 After the end of the war, but still while on
11 active duty, Cal Lancaster also served in Sasebo, Japan.
12 He was in Nagasaki, Japan, for a while and also in
13 Saishu, Korea, apparently during at least some of that
14 time, he was transporting Japanese POWs from Korea back
15 to Japan and things of that sort.

16 While in the Pacific with the Navy,
17 interestingly he crossed paths with his older brother,
18 Jiggs Lancaster, who some of you may remember was another
19 attorney here in Prince George's County.

20 After World War II, Master Cal Lancaster
21 attended Catholic University School of Law, and he
22 graduated from Catholic University in 1949, and shortly
23 after that he passed the bar. That was on November 11,
24 1949, which we recognize as Veterans Day, and he was
25 admitted to practice here in Maryland.

1 Shortly thereafter, he practiced in the
2 District of Columbia, as I understand, as well. And he
3 was associated with an attorney named Adrian Fisher, who
4 I do not know, and I have not met.

5 He lived in Cheverly, and while living in
6 Cheverly he became the town attorney for the Town of
7 Cheverly. After Mr. Fisher's death, Mr. Lancaster
8 started practice in Marlow Heights, Maryland and was
9 associated, at least for a period of time with an
10 attorney named Fred Garner. And then later, Cal moved to
11 Oxon Hill and had an office in the famous Lucente
12 building in Oxon Hill, and was associated, at least for a
13 while with attorney Ron Eagleston.

14 Cal engaged in general practice, but he seemed
15 to emphasize things such as estate, wills, adoptions and
16 things of that sort.

17 I had the pleasure of talking to both of Cal's
18 two daughters, who unfortunately cannot be here today.
19 They told me stories about Cal coming home from work at
20 the end of the day with a trunk full of produce,
21 cabbages, potatoes, lettuce, turnips, things of that
22 sort, that they had to clean up for dinner. This is what
23 he had received as payment on some of the cases that he
24 had worked on.

25 He was definitely an old fashioned lawyer and

1 worked not necessarily just for the dollars that could be
2 paid, but for whatever the person had to offer to take
3 care of business.

4 After approximately 36 years of private
5 practice, however, Cal rounded out his career by becoming
6 a Master for Domestic Relations. It was at that time
7 that I really first got to know Cal. He served as a
8 Master here in Prince George's for a period of
9 approximately nine years, from 1985 to 1993.

10 Coincidentally, I was called on to active duty
11 with the Marine Corp, and so I was gone during part of
12 that time, but when I came back in 1993, it was Cal that
13 I replaced. He had indicated at that time that he wished
14 to retire, and in fact, did retire.

15 Cal was what I would refer to as a
16 conscientious and hard worker. I found him always to be
17 very fair minded and always wanting to do the right
18 thing. And sometimes that was rather difficult.

19 He spent a lot of his time in child support
20 enforcement trying to enforce the payment of child
21 support. So he would often threaten the non-paying
22 parent, usually the father, to try and coerce them in one
23 fashion or another to make payments of child support to
24 the custodial parent, usually the mother. Sometimes that
25 worked, sometimes it didn't.

1 Now, at that time the Master allegedly had the
2 authority to incarcerate, so there was always that threat
3 of incarceration involved, but I know that Cal sometimes
4 was quite frustrated by the limitations on what he was,
5 in fact, able to do to try and gather this child support.

6 Now throughout Cal was very dedicated to his
7 wife Loretta. As I said, he had met her when he was on
8 his way to the Pacific, and they were married upon his
9 return.

10 She contracted multiple sclerosis at age 40.
11 And so for the last 40 some years of her life, Cal was
12 very caring of her, and spent a lot of his time trying to
13 help her just with physical things that needed to be
14 done.

15 After Cal retired from his position as a
16 Master, and after he had been retired for some years,
17 both he and his wife Loretta moved into an assisted
18 living home; that was somewhat later in their life. They
19 both lived till age 86. Cal himself died on October 13,
20 2008, of a congestive heart failure and shortly after
21 that, his wife Loretta passed.

22 I suspect that that passing was effected to a
23 great extent by the fact that her beloved husband of 60
24 years had passed away a few months before.

25 Many of you that have been around in the county

1 for a period of time also know Cal's older brother,
2 Carlyle Lancaster, affectionately known as "Jiggs". He
3 was another well-known attorney here in the county. And
4 Jiggs passed away about 12 years ago.

5 I did have the pleasure of talking to both of
6 Cal's two daughters, one, Pamela Hymes is married and is
7 living in Strasburg, Virginia, and has one daughter,
8 Katie, Cal's grand daughter. And the other, Charlene
9 Wiseman, is married and lives in La Plata, Maryland, with
10 her husband. And she has one daughter, Ana, also Cal's
11 other grand daughter.

12 Unfortunately, for reasons that I really don't
13 need to get into here, neither one, neither daughter is
14 able to be here today. Both of them, however, remember
15 that daddy as they refer to him, finally was a very
16 strict, but loving father to them and a devoted husband
17 to their mother and his lifelong partner, Loretta.

18 I found Cal to be a very compassionate
19 individual, very concerned about the people that came
20 before him in the court. And one of the daughters that
21 talked to me about, she had the same type of feeling
22 about he was a very caring and compassionate individual.

23 She spoke of having seen him cry only twice,
24 but once was at his partner, Mr. Fisher's death, his very
25 first partner and the one that brought him into the

1 practice of law. And the other was after losing an
2 adoption case. Apparently he felt very strongly and
3 believed very strongly in this particular case and felt
4 that the adoption didn't go the way it should have gone.

5 In any event, as a result of his service with
6 the Navy, Cal is currently interred at Cheltenham
7 cemetery in Prince George's County.

8 I took great pleasure in getting to know Cal
9 during that period of time that he and I served together
10 in the Master's Office. And it was kind of interesting
11 timing, but he had expressed his desire to retire just
12 about the time I was being released from active duty. So
13 I was able to come right back into the courthouse without
14 so much as a bump. I think that was a nice thing for him
15 to do as well.

16 Thank you, Your Honors, it's been my pleasure
17 to have the opportunity to come up here and remind some
18 people about Cal Lancaster. Thank you.

19 MS. CRAWFORD: I will now switch roles, and I
20 am going to eulogize a member of our association,
21 Mr. Richard L. Love.

22 He really had a very long legal career. It
23 spanned 70 years. He was a native Prince Georgian who
24 grew up in Hyattsville, Maryland, attending and
25 graduating from Hyattsville High School in 1932.

1 He continued his studies at the University of
2 Maryland just up the street, and he graduated in 1936
3 from the University of Maryland, and then from the
4 University of Maryland, School of Law in 1938.

5 At the time he began his legal career, the
6 county was quite a different place. It was very rural.
7 The types of cases that came up were very different from
8 the kind of sophisticated cases that we have today. So I
9 did a little bit of reading and found out that actually,
10 stills were quite common in the county. And so,
11 prosecutions for violating the prohibition laws were very
12 common, but also gambling was quite prevalent. And so
13 the newspapers of the time, and the lawyers at the time
14 would represent those who were accused of gambling.

15 He was an outstanding student, and a member of
16 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and achieved the Order of the
17 Coif, Legal Honor Society.

18 He did begin his law practice in 1939 and
19 joined the County Bar Association, and the District of
20 Columbia Bar Association in that year.

21 He interrupted his legal career to answer the
22 call of his country and served in the Army Judge Advocate
23 General Corps in the European Theater of war during World
24 War II.

25 After the war he joined the Army/Navy Club and

1 remained a member of the Army Reserve until 1975, when he
2 attained the rank of colonel.

3 He was a very active reservist and served as
4 executive secretary of the Judge Advocates Association,
5 and editor of its journal. From 1977 to 1979 he was
6 National Commander General of the Military Order of
7 Foreign Wars.

8 After the war, going back to his legal career,
9 he did return to the practice of law, but his main office
10 was always in the District of Columbia and he was much
11 more active in the District of Columbia Bar Association
12 than in the Prince George's County Bar Association. They
13 give him an award, the District of Columbia Bar
14 Association, in 2008 for having been the member that has
15 been the member the longest of 70 years in the District
16 of Columbia Bar Association. And he really was very
17 proud of that, and he very much appreciated the award
18 from the D.C. Bar association.

19 In doing my research, I did have the
20 opportunity to talk to his son, who is also an attorney,
21 Mr. Edward Love, and Mr. Love shared with me his son
22 Edward, that his dad had served as counsel to the Prince
23 George's County Zoning Appeal Board in the 1950s.

24 He also ran for the Maryland House of Delegates
25 in the 1950s. Now, he did run as a Republican, so it is

1 not surprising that he was unsuccessful here in Prince
2 George's County, running for House of Delegates.

3 My own father was a lifelong Republican and he
4 was also a member of the bar here in county. And I
5 always pictured the Republican party meetings of the time
6 as my dad and the Honorable Francis Borelli sitting at a
7 bar having a beer, because I thought they were the only
8 two in the County, but now I know that Mr. Love was
9 occasionally with him.

10 He did retire finally from private practice in
11 2004, but Mr. Love was very fond of geology and the study
12 of history and military affairs. And he pursued those
13 hobbies actively until his death at the venerable age of
14 93 years old. So, we remember him here today. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. CRAWFORD: Our next eulogist is Mr. Gene
17 Roberts for Attorney John Mitchell.

18 MR. ROBERTS: Judge Martin, Honored Judges,
19 John Walker Mitchell was born on February 18, 1926 and
20 died this year at 83, having lived a long and successful
21 life in Prince George's County.

22 Now it's recorded when on February 18, 1926, he
23 asked who was there delivering him: How do you plead?
24 But it is for certain as he approached the pearly gates
25 he asked Saint Peter: How to do you plead? The answer

1 is not yet recorded.

2 Right after high school he is selected to enter
3 the V-12 program, a highly competitive and concentrated
4 officers training program at the University of
5 Pennsylvania.

6 He graduated with honors from there, and he was
7 very pleased. I think he was the only public school
8 graduate. In those days prep schools were much more
9 prevalent than they are today. And he told the story at
10 the end of each week, there were two lists put up on the
11 board, bulletin board, and this was the list of the guys
12 who were asked to continue. And this was the list of the
13 guys who were asked to leave. All the prep school boys
14 checked this list first. And John checked the bye list
15 first. Every week people left this group, left this
16 group and left this group. In the end, the last one he
17 checked this list first and he was on the team. He was
18 assigned to the Pacific fleet, and however, the war was
19 over before he saw major combat.

20 After the war he returned to Penn and went to
21 Georgetown law school where he was either at the top of
22 his class or close to. Evalina told me a funny story the
23 other day that actually John took and passed the bar exam
24 before he graduated from law school.

25 Now I know a little story, now everybody is

1 dead now, but there was a real estate firm in this
2 county, and the two principals weren't as good at taking
3 tests as John was. And they had started the business but
4 neither of them had passed the real estate exam, so John
5 took the test. Of course, he passed it. And he was the
6 silent partner until the other fellows got themselves up
7 to order.

8 John returned to Upper Marlboro and started
9 practicing law in the offices of Sam Meloy, later Judge
10 Meloy. Then in the early and middle 50s, he served as
11 Assistant District Attorney which he always said was a
12 wonderful background for his later practice.

13 Through the late 50s, 60s and 70s, he practiced
14 with a number of distinguished partners, including Bowie
15 Claggett, Cary Ewer, Frank Haskel and Patrick Duley.

16 About in 1979-1980, he began to practice on his
17 own in those little townhouse offices on the other side
18 of School House Pond, and for many years he shared space
19 with Tom Yewell.

20 As with many Upper Marlboro lawyers, his
21 practice was varied; wills and estates, property law, and
22 some corporate and business law.

23 He served in a quiet advisory role to his
24 wife's company, Bob Hall, Inc. and he helped us, for
25 instance, with a 20 year project of the Rouse-Fairwood

1 development in the Bowie/Glenn Dale area.

2 John loved the law and he loved his family, but
3 he also loved Southern Maryland where he came from. He
4 never forgot where he was born.

5 He served for years on the Board of the Prince
6 George's Historical Society. And then he was on the
7 board and head of the publications committee, for the
8 Maryland Historical Society.

9 One of his favorite projects was helping the
10 University of Maryland support a learning center in the
11 English countryside at Kipling Hall, the ancestral home
12 of the Calvert family, the first Lord Baltimore. He
13 loved the symmetry that the Calverts had founded Maryland
14 and helped found the University and now the university
15 has a study center there in their ancestral home in
16 England.

17 He also loved the country and the countryside.
18 For over 40 years he was a member of the Vansville
19 Farmers Club. And not only did he enjoy growing things,
20 but he enjoyed eating things.

21 And for many many years, he and Oden Bowie and
22 later he and an awful lot of other people, had a ham rub
23 and a sausage making group. And you would think that he
24 would be right in there, you know, making the sausage and
25 trimming the hams and stuff like that.

1 He had a different way of approaching things,
2 and this was kind of the way he approached many things.
3 He was like Tom Sawyer. He got all the rest of us
4 interested in rubbing those hams, and you know, trimming
5 them and all that kind of stuff and hanging them up, et
6 cetera, et cetera, and he sat on the edge, and talked
7 with everybody.

8 He would invite distinguished people from
9 around the State to come and participate, and the
10 sausages was exactly the same thing. So he was very good
11 at talking with people and he was wonderful at getting
12 people to do the things that he thought they ought to be
13 doing.

14 However, John's greatest achievement was with
15 his wife, Evalina, who is here today, in passing his
16 legacy, sense of humor and constancy onto nine children
17 and step children, many of whom continue to live and work
18 in our community, and three of whom are here today.
19 That's John Mitchell. He was a very good guy. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. CRAWFORD: Now, our next eulogist is the
22 Honorable C. Phillip Nichols, Junior, Judge of the
23 Circuit Court for Prince George's County, who will be
24 eulogizing Colonel Richard Romine.

25 JUDGE NICHOLS: Senior Judge Martin, colleagues

1 and family of Dick Romine. I first need to say in the
2 RAOE side SAOG recommend move RORZ there were two
3 veterans in the United States Army and two veterans in
4 the United States Navy. It would be fair to say as ~~it~~
5 fitting memorial that the Marines have had a hand with
6 Corporal Richard Romine and only fair.

7 Well, in May 29 of 2009, Dick Romine, a long
8 time member of our bar, our Zoning Hearing Examiner for
9 Prince George's County, Maryland, the General Counsel to
10 the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning
11 Commission, a Marine and family man, passed to his
12 heavenly reward.

13 Ironically, it happened while he was playing
14 golf in Virginia. Golf was a sport that he dearly loved.
15 Frankly, he even tried to teach me the game. I never got
16 past the five iron, but he was very kind about it.

17 At the University of Maryland, Dick played
18 varsity lacrosse and varsity soccer. He was an "All
19 American" in soccer and he received the Guckeyson
20 Memorial Award for scholarship, leadership and superior
21 athletic ability as the Outstanding Two Sport Athlete of
22 the Year.

23 After college, the Marines called and he
24 answered.

25 Following Officer Candidate School in Quantico,

1 and active duty with a Mediterranean "float" as the
2 Marines call it, he entered the reserves and began law
3 school at the University of Maryland.

4 In the reserves, he rose to the rank of full
5 Colonel of the Marines.

6 He served in various intelligence billets as
7 well as with the 4th Engineer Battalion. I had the
8 pleasure to join him more than a few times for the 4th
9 Engineer's Full Dress Dining In. Dick always looked the
10 part of the Colonel in the Marine's dress blue uniform.

11 I once turned to him in his capacity as an
12 engineer to figure out how much dirt I needed to fill a
13 dirt path about 3 feet wide and four yards long in front
14 of the house. After consulting with the Marine's
15 "tables" as he called them, the amount was determined and
16 delivered.

17 Unfortunately, it was about two dump truck
18 loads too many. It created such a mountain of dirt that
19 one of my neighbors placed an American flag on top much
20 like a climber at the summit of Mount Everest.

21 At the start of the first Persian Gulf War,
22 both of us were more than a little concerned about
23 getting the call. Dick, in fact, got the call which
24 turned out to be an inquiry about what size gas mask he
25 had.

1 I frankly didn't know that they came in sizes,
2 but they do. Once the inquiry came, Dick started
3 checking his gear, just in case he needed to head for the
4 Middle Eastern desert.

5 Dick's next call was for the gas mask to be
6 returned to the United States Marine headquarters and not
7 for the colonel's presence in the Middle East, a major
8 disappointment for him.

9 Once we wrecked a boat together. Well, not
10 just a boat, but the new "Queen" of the fleet, pontoon
11 boat in Ocean City, Maryland. Our families had planned a
12 day on the bay of sailing and swimming from the pontoon
13 boat.

14 Dick and I drove over to pick up the boat and
15 sailed her back. As we reached the pier at Ocean Pines
16 Dick's house, I asked if he wanted me to "man the rails"
17 or "stand by the bow line." He said no. While never
18 much of a sailor, I was keenly aware of the concept that
19 the Captain's word is law. I obeyed his order to just
20 stay where you are, even though I was prepared to give
21 more than one hand for the ship and one hand for myself.
22 Had I known we were going to be the biggest boat wreck on
23 the bay that day, I would have thrown myself over the
24 side to be a bumper.

25 Taking the Queen of the fleet back that day put

1 the owner's son in tears and required a call home to his
2 dad, a then retired Prince George's County police officer
3 to make more than amends, before we ever got around to
4 writing the check for the damages.

5 While he loved the Marines, he loved the law
6 just as much. Following his graduation from law school,
7 and clerking for a Circuit Judge, he took a position with
8 the Harford County Office Of Law. In one of the better
9 trades of the time, he was coaxed to Prince George's
10 County where he was named the Zoning Hearing Examiner.
11 He served in this capacity admirably without fear or
12 favor in making his recommendations to our County
13 Council. Recognizing this tremendous talent, he was
14 named General Counsel for the Maryland National Capital
15 Park and Planning Commission. He led that bi-county
16 office for a number of years before he retired.

17 More than the law, more than the Marines, he
18 loved his family. His sister, Judy; his son, Keith; his
19 wife, Leslie, a fellow member of our bar and now attorney
20 for the Maryland Public Service Commission and their
21 daughter Natalie. He was devoted to them in retirement.

22 He was also devoted to his church which from
23 the beginning to the end opened its collective arms to
24 the Romine family. And for all this he shall be
25 remembered.

1 While none of us in this room had the chance to
2 say goodbye to Dick because of the suddenness of his
3 passing, surely men and women who share Dick's deep and
4 abiding faith in God will all have the chance to say
5 hello again when that time comes. At a time like this,
6 the Navy would say "fair wind and following seas"; the
7 Marines would simply say "Semper Fi," but perhaps we
8 should all say "God Bless you, Dick," for all you have
9 done for us. Rest easy at Arlington as you join
10 America's heroes. Thank you.

11 MS. CRAWFORD: And your last eulogist is the
12 Honorable Thomas J. Love, Judge of the District Court of
13 Prince George's County. And he will eulogize
14 James J.M. Vaughan.

15 JUDGE LOVE: Thank you, Judge Martin, fellow
16 judges, distinguished guests, Mrs. Vaughan, family and
17 and friends of Jim Vaughan. James Joseph Michael Vaughan
18 was born on March 19, 1942.

19 He was born in New Jersey, I'm told, but he
20 spent his childhood in Scranton, Pennsylvania, attended
21 the University of Scranton where he graduated in 1963,
22 and graduated from the Columbus School Of Law, Catholic
23 University in 1966 where he met his wife, Jeanette, who
24 he was married to for 41 years. Jeanette also graduated
25 from Catholic University.

1 Their marriage in 1967 produced three wonderful
2 daughters, Karen, Adrienne and Jennifer.

3 Jim served in the United States Army honorably
4 in Viet Nam in the late 60s. When he returned to the
5 area, he worked for a time with Bill Mann in Montgomery
6 County.

7 In 1976 he joined the firm of Giordano,
8 Alexander, Haas, Mahoney and Bush. The firm was later
9 renamed Giordano, Bush, Villareale and Vaughan or, as we
10 like to call it, GBV & V, with offices first on
11 Livingston Road in Fort Washington, and later in Upper
12 Marlboro. He remained with that firm until the day he
13 died.

14 He left us much too soon on March 29 of this
15 year. Now that's the spare record of Jim's life and
16 professional career, but to those who knew him well,
17 there was so much more.

18 I am deeply honored and privileged to be asked
19 to participate in this ceremony which honors the memory
20 of my friend and teacher, Jim Vaughan.

21 I first met Jim in 1980 when I was hired to be
22 one of two law clerks for GBV & V. Richard Moore was the
23 other law clerk. Richard Moore actually hired me, which
24 was a big mistake. The associates of the firm at that
25 time were Don Noble, Bruce Lipstein, Vicky Selph,

1 SueEllen Ferguson, Joe Bruce, Howard Shemler and
2 Ed Connor. Others came to the firm later, Steve Cain,
3 Brent Walthall, Kevin McNeill, Mac Kantruss, John Kearns
4 and quite a few others. The list of alumni of that firm
5 is quite extensive.

6 Although there was never a question of who the
7 boss in that firm was, it was Jim Vaughan who had the
8 greatest effect on me, and I'm sure all the other
9 associates I just mentioned.

10 Let me first say that Jim Vaughan was flat-out
11 brilliant. All of us relied on his comprehensive
12 knowledge of the law, his thoroughness, his ability to
13 distill the essence of a case from a convoluted set of
14 facts.

15 I was fortunate to have learned from Jim during
16 my tenure with the firm. He was a lawyer's lawyer, as I
17 said, incredibly bright. He was meticulous in the
18 preparation of a case for trial; the way he organized for
19 trial and the manner in which he tried a case was
20 actually taught to us, and became sort of the Jim Vaughan
21 method of trying a case.

22 Jim was also most generous with his time. In
23 addition to being assigned all the complex cases at the
24 law firm he had to handle, he devoted a lot of his energy
25 to help the associates with his cases, so I'm sure the

1 same was with Jim Bucher. Jim's office was sort of the
2 central location. You didn't want to go to Mr. G 's
3 office. You wanted to go to Jim's office. And if you
4 could wade through the pipe smoke, he could tell you
5 about the complexities of this case and how to solve
6 them.

7 He was actually the copy editor for everyone's
8 pleadings before they were submitted. He reviewed with
9 great care your proposed jury instructions.

10 He was especially effective in preparing for
11 the deposition examination of defense doctors in PI
12 cases. He knew more about orthopedic medicine than a lot
13 of orthopods I know. He was the one that taught me and
14 the others the importance of learning the medicine. He
15 constantly would stress that you have to understand
16 what's in the medical reports and the SOAP notes to be a
17 good lawyer.

18 Thank goodness for Jim who would pick apart
19 your case for you, free of charge, before defense counsel
20 did. He was our mentor and our teacher and we were his
21 acolytes.

22 After I left the firm, I didn't see as much of
23 Jim as I had wanted, but I always remembered him and the
24 things he thought me. It is said that we are a nation of
25 lawyers. And if that's the case, then the nation would

1 be a better place if the lawyers followed his example.

2 He loved his wife and his family. He loved his
3 pipe. He loved sharing a beer at our satellite office,
4 the House of Chang II on Livingston Road, and he loved
5 practicing law.

6 His departure, of course, came too early and is
7 a deep loss to his loving wife and family, but those who
8 worked with him, those who tried cases with him and
9 against him, and were fortunate enough to be considered
10 to be a friend of his, are truly fortunate. All of us
11 who were associated with him have been enriched by the
12 experience. I will miss him greatly. Thank you.

13 MS. CRAWFORD: Judge Martin, Honored Judges,
14 this concludes the eulogies for today. I'd like to thank
15 first the families of our deceased colleagues.

16 I would like to thank the guidance of Judge
17 Sothoron, who was extremely helpful to me during the
18 preparation of this. And I would also like to thank the
19 staff of our wonderful staff of our bar association. And
20 please, I would like the families to meet with the bar
21 association staff on conclusion of these proceedings.
22 Thank you, Judge Martin.

23 JUDGE MARTIN: Thank you, Miss Crawford. Thank
24 you, Judge Rattal, in your capacity as president of the
25 Prince George's County Bar Association. And I want to

1 thank Mr. Zuber, Master Rumsey, Mr. Roberts, Judge
2 Nichols, our colleague, and Judge Love. And Judge Love,
3 I apologize for not acknowledging you earlier. That's
4 the problem I had.

5 JUDGE LOVE: That's okay.

6 JUDGE MARTIN: And the program was turned over
7 to the bar association, so I could not jump in and say,
8 we had Judge Salmon are here presently and we have Judge
9 Nichols. Judge Salmon is of the Court of Special
10 Appeals. And Judge Smith, Judge Thomas P. Smith. We
11 also have our State's Attorney, the Honorable Glenn Ivey,
12 who has joined us. And we have a public defender, I'm
13 told, who is Brian Denton, who is always available when I
14 make a call for him. He comes right into the courtroom.
15 We thank you. We thank the families for allowing us to
16 understand, that although your loved ones do not walk
17 among us physically, that they are still present, and
18 they will live on through impressions that they made upon
19 us, the contributions they have made to those who have
20 spoken of them here today.

21 The Court would also like to acknowledge, Judge
22 Femia. He is not here today but he's been a very
23 critical cog in these services and we want to thank him.

24 The Court will direct that the memorials be
25 presented and be spread upon the permanent records of the

1 Court and that copies will be sent to the families of
2 those colleague we are honoring here today.

3 In conclusion, Mr. Bailiff, in honor of James
4 R. Bucher, C. Calvert Lancaster, Richard H. Love, John
5 Mitchell, Colonel Richard A. Romine and James J.M.
6 Vaughan. You may now announce the adjournment of this
7 session of the Court.

8 THE BAILIFF: All rise. This special session
9 is now adjourned.

10 (End of memorial service.)
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