

RICHLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2018 MEMORIAL SERVICE

FRIDAY, THE 22ND OF JUNE

MEMORIAL SERVICES BEING HELD FOR: RONALD "RONNIE" GENE AARON BY H. WESLEY KIRKLAND, JR.; JOHN ULYSSES BELL, III BY EDWARD W. MULLINS, JR.; THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN "BEN" THOMAS DEBERRY BY ROBERT W. BROWN; RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE ERNEST A. FINNEY, JR. BY JERRY L. FINNEY; RICHARD M. KENNEDY, JR. BY ROBERT G. PRICE; ROBERT JOHN "RJ" KOBYLAK BY DAMIAN MURPHY; THEODORE "TED" WANNAMAKER LAW, III H. WESLEY KIRKLAND, JR.; JAMES "JIM" LEVENTIS BY ROBERT B. RANSOM; ARTHUR CAMDEN LEWIS BY KEITH M. BABCOCK; SARAH GRAYDON MCCRORY BY CLINTON G. WALLACE; GEORGE RAYMOND MCELVEEN, JR. BY GEORGE R. MCELVEEN, III; JAMES "JIM" ALMOND MERRITT, JR. BY THEODORE VON KELLER; JULIAN M. SELLERS BY VINCENT A SHEHEEN; AND KEVIN HAYNE SITNICK BY ALEX T. POSTIC.

PRESIDED OVER BY: THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

PRESIDENT OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION: JOHN F. MCKENZIE.

BAILIFF: ALL RISE, THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD PRESIDING.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E HOOD: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY

MUCH, MR. BOWMAN. THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY TAKE YOUR SEATS.

ALL RIGHT. GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE. MY NAME IS ROBERT HOOD. I'M ONE OF YOUR RESIDENT CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES. IT IS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO WELCOME YOU TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR'S MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR BAR WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY DURING THE PAST YEAR. THIS FRIDAY IS SET ASIDE BY STATUTE FOR THIS OCCASION, AND I, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE JUDGES, WANT TO PERSONALLY WELCOME YOU TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF THE JUDGES WHO ARE IN ATTENDANCE TODAY. WE HAVE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, MARY LEWIS DOWN THE FRONT ROW. WE HAVE RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE COSTA PLEICONES RIGHT BACK IN THE MIDDLE. WE HAVE RETIRED CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE G. THOMAS COOPER FROM CAMDEN; JUDGE DIXON FROM ORANGEBURG; AND CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE DEANDRE BENJAMIN HERE WITH US TODAY.

I WANT TO ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK TWO PEOPLE WHO PUT THIS EVENT ON AND MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN. MANDY WREN, WHO IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, WHO DOES A WONDERFUL JOB, SHE'S TAKEN OVER THAT ROLE. AND ALL OF HER EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND ALL THE THINGS THEY PUT OUT ARE JUST WONDERFUL AND THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE EVENTS THAT THEY HANDLE. AND CATHERINE MUBARAK, WHO IS OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S

OFFICE. SHE IS THE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE, AND HAS BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY FOR WEEKS, AND COMING TO SEE ME MORE THAN SHE PROBABLY WISHES SHE SHOULD HAVE TO, TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING IS IN LINE. SO LADIES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK IN PREPARATION FOR THIS EVENT.

I WILL NOW RECOGNIZE JACK MCKENZIE. MR. MCKENZIE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE, SIR.

MR. MCKENZIE: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. MCKENZIE: OUR COUNTY BAR IS UNIQUE, IN IT'S THE ONLY BAR THAT I'M AWARE OF THAT BY STATUTE HAS A MEMORIAL DAY LIKE THIS. I DON'T KNOW THE HISTORY OF WHY IT WAS DONE, BUT MOST OF US THINK THAT IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT THAT TAKES PLACE AT OUR BAR EVERY YEAR. THE PEOPLE WHO WE ARE CELEBRATING TODAY ARE OUR LAW PARTNERS, OUR FRIENDS, OUR COLLEAGUES, OUR ADVERSARIES MANY TIMES, AND OUR HEROES TO BE VERY FRANK. WE MISS THEM. AND IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US TO SIT BACK AND REFLECT ON THEIR LIVES AS WELL AS OURS AND WE REALIZE HOW PRECIOUS THEY WERE TO US.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IF NOT MORE IMPORTANT, IS THE FAMILY WHO'S HERE TODAY. IT ALLOWS US TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH YOUR LOVED ONES MEANT TO US. THEY HAVE NOT JUST AFFECTED YOUR HOME, BUT THEY HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON THE WORLD AT LARGE AND CERTAINLY IN OUR LIVES. AND

SO IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO SAY THANK YOU FOR SHARING THEM WITH US OVER THE YEARS.

ANOTHER UNIQUE ASPECT I'LL POINT OUT IS THIS IS BEING RECORDED BY A COURT REPORTER HERE TODAY. THIS IS THE HISTORY OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR. THE PEOPLE BEING MEMORIALIZED, THE JUDGES SPEAKING, THE SPEAKERS HERE TODAY, THIS IS WHO WE ARE. AND IF ANYONE EVER WANTS TO GO BACK AND DO A RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR, THEY ARE HERE RECORDED AND AVAILABLE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK CATHERINE MUBARAK AND OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MANDY WREN, THEY ORGANIZED THIS EVENT, PUT A LOT OF TIME INTO IT AND IT IS ALWAYS A SUCCESS. EVERYONE ALWAYS APPRECIATES IT. THEY DO THE HARD WORK AND WE APPRECIATE IT.

WE THANK THE COURT FOR THE TIME, THE JUDGES AND THANK MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE BAR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. OUR FIRST SPEAKER TODAY WILL BE WES KIRKLAND. MR. KIRKLAND WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD "RONNIE" GENE AARON. AND THEN WE'RE GONNA TAKE HIM A LITTLE BIT OUT OF ORDER, MY UNDERSTANDING IS MR. KIRKLAND IS IN A MEDIATION AND SO TO LET HIM GET BACK TO THAT, BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW I LIKE IT WHEN YOU SETTLE YOUR CASES, MR. KIRKLAND WILL THEN HONOR THE LIFE OF THEODORE "TED" WANNAMAKER LAW, III. AND SO WE'LL GO A LITTLE BIT OUT OF ORDER FOR MR. KIRKLAND. THE FLOOR IS YOURS.

MR. KIRKLAND: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I AM WES KIRKLAND AND I'M HERE TODAY TO HONOR RONNIE AARON. AND I SEE A WHOLE LOT OF THE GRAY HAIREF FOLKS THAT KNEW RONNIE PRETTY WELL, SO I THINK THEY'LL APPRECIATE SOME OF WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY HERE.

THE FIRST THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS, YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT RONNIE AARON'S LEGAL CAREER UNLESS YOU TALK ABOUT THE LAW FIRM HE WORKED WITH. HE WORKED WITH A FIRM THAT IS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE, IT WAS LAW, KIRKLAND, AARON AND ALLEY. AND THAT FIRM, I THINK, STARTED EARLY '50S. MY FATHER WAS IN IT, GEORGE ALLEY, TED LAW, ALL THOSE GUYS, AND THERE'S NONE OF THEM LEFT; HE WAS THE LAST ONE. AND I THINK THE LAWYERS WHO PRACTICED WITH THEM, THEY THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT HIM, TOO. THEY THOUGHT A LOT OF THE FIRM. AND WHAT'S MADE THEM SPECIFICALLY UNIQUE -- I'LL JUST SAY MOST LAW FIRMS, YOU KNOW, YOU MEET SOMEBODY AT LAW SCHOOL OR YOU GO INTERVIEW AND YOU GET YOUR JOB. WELL, THIS WAS A GROUP OF GUYS OTHER THAN THEODORE LAW THAT ALL GREW UP TOGETHER. THEY ALL WERE FROM OLYMPIA. AND SOME OF Y'ALL, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG ONES MAY NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT OLYMPIA, BUT I SEE SOME THAT DO AND SOME THAT PROBABLY GOT THEIR REARS BEAT A COUPLE OF TIMES. SO IF YOU REMEMBER THOSE MEETINGS, ONE OF THOSE LAWYERS MAY HAVE BEEN THE ONE THAT PUT IT ON YOU, I DON'T KNOW. IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME. IT WAS THE MILL HILL DOWN THERE IN THE ADLUH MILL, DOWN THERE AT THE STADIUM FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT. SO THEY CAME FROM THAT COMMUNITY, AND IT WAS VERY LOYAL AND VERY

TIGHT, AND THEY STUCK TOGETHER. AND THAT'S KIND OF HOW THIS FIRM WAS. AND IT WAS SORT OF A UNIQUE KIND OF THING, I DOUBT YOU'LL SEE THAT ANYMORE IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW, IT'S JUST A LOT DIFFERENT.

AND THE OTHER THING ABOUT THEM IS HALF THE TIME THEY NEVER GOT PAID, SO. AND IT DIDN'T BOTHER THEM. AND THAT WAS THE -- THAT WAS THE PART, ALL THESE -- WHEN I STARTED PRACTICING, THEY'RE NOT PAYING. SO WHAT. YOU KNOW, I'M JUST LIKE ... IT'S WHAT YOU DO, ESPECIALLY WITH THE PEOPLE THAT THEY CARED ABOUT, PEOPLE FROM THEIR COMMUNITY.

NOW LET ME TALK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT RONNIE. KATHY'S SITTING RIGHT UP HERE LOOKING AT ME, AND CATHERINE MUBARAK HAD ASKED ME TO DO THIS. OF COURSE, I CALLED KATHY THE OTHER NIGHT UPON ASKING ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW. I KNEW MOST OF THE STUFF ABOUT RONNIE, BUT I THINK THE WAY TO DESCRIBE HIM, THERE'S REALLY THREE THINGS. HIS LOYALTY, HE WAS EXTREMELY LOYAL TO HIS CLIENTS. HE SPENT TIME WITH THEM AND HE WOULD HELP THEM NO MATTER WHAT. SO THAT WAS ONE OF THE BIG THINGS THAT'S A PART OF HIM. AND ACTUALLY HE WAS A FIGHTER, TOO. EVERYONE IN THAT FIRM FOUGHT IF THEY HAD TO FIGHT. AND IT WAS ALL -- THEY HAD GOOD COMMON SENSE, BUT THEY WOULD FIGHT. AND HE WAS A GIVER. AND WHEN I SAY HE WAS A GIVER, I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT HIS PRACTICE BECAUSE I KNOW HE PROBABLY DID MORE WORK FOR FREE THAN HE GOT PAID FOR, BUT HE DID THIS IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE. AND I DIDN'T KNOW THIS UNTIL I TALKED TO KATHY, BECAUSE SHE HAD TOLD ME, SHE SAID, YOU KNOW WHAT HE USED TO DO ALL THE TIME. WE WOULD GO TO A RESTAURANT

AND HE WOULD LOOK AROUND, AND IF HE SAW SOMEBODY WHO WAS IN NEED OR SPECIFICALLY SAW SOMEONE THAT WAS HANDICAP, HE WOULD GO UP TO THE COUNTER AND PAY FOR THE BILL ANONYMOUSLY AND JUST DO THAT. AND I THINK A LOT OF IT HAS TO DO WITH HIS GENERATION, THAT'S THE WAY THEY WERE, THAT THEY CARED. THEY ALL CAME UP WITH NEXT TO NOTHING AND THEY APPRECIATED IT. AND THAT WAS RONNIE AARON. THAT WAS HIM.

NOW, I'M GONNA END ON A LITTLE LIGHT NOTE HERE. THERE WAS A LITTLE NICKNAME AT THE FIRM BECAUSE RONNIE AND HIS TWIN BROTHER, I'D LIKE TO MENTION, DONNIE AARON, BOTH WERE BIG GOLFERS, WERE REALLY BIG GOLFERS. THEY LOVED TO PLAY GOLF. AND I THOUGHT ABOUT IT FROM THE DAY WITH MY SUIT WITH THE GOLF SHIRT BECAUSE RONNIE WOULD HAVE HIS TIE -- HE'S THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW THAT CAME IN WITH A -- HE HAD ON A GOLF SHIRT WITH HIS TIE BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO THE GOLF COURSE. SO, IF YOU ASKED AN ATTORNEY IN THE FIRM, ESPECIALLY A YOUNG ONE, AND THIS KIND OF PREDATES ME EVEN, HE WOULD SAY, LOOK, I GOTTA GO -- YOU GOTTA COVER THIS HEARING FOR ME. WELL, EVERYBODY KNEW WHAT THAT MEANT, AND IT WAS AFTER LUNCH. AND SO HE REFERRED TO THAT PARTICULAR JUDGE HE HAD TO UP FOR AND HE WOULD SAY, OH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE DR. GREEN. NOT -- YEAH, NOT DR. GREEN, I'M SORRY, JUDGE GREEN. JUDGE GREEN, THAT'S WHAT THEY WOULD SAY. SO HE WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE, AND IT IS A DIFFERENT GENERATION, IT'S A SPECIAL GENERATION. AND A LOT OF US WERE A PART OF THAT. AND HE WAS A GREAT LAWYER, A GREAT PERSON, A GREAT HUSBAND TO KATHY, AND WE'LL MISS

HIM.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. KIRKLAND. NOW, IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE GIVE US SOME REMARKS ON THE LIFE OF THEODORE "TED" WANNAMAKER LAW, III.

MR. KIRKLAND: ALL RIGHT. WELL, I HAVE TO SAY UNDER THAT SAME -- TED LAW -- I DON'T KNOW THAT VERY MANY PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM KNEW HIM. I MEAN, I SEE JUSTICE PLEICONES WHO KNOWS, I'M SURE. AND PUNKY DID, I'M SURE. HE WAS THE SON OF ONE OF THE FIRST PARTNERS IN THE FIRM, THEODORE LAW, JR. AND HE WAS THE SON. HE WAS A VERY BRIGHT, BRIGHT MAN. AND HIS STORY IS KIND OF -- WELL, IT'S VERY SAD BECAUSE HE GRADUATED SECOND IN HIS CLASS FROM LAW SCHOOL. HE WAS WIG AND ROBE. CAME OUT OF THERE A BRILLIANT, BRILLIANT MAN. AND UNFORTUNATELY, ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO, HAD A BOUT WITH A VERY -- I'LL JUST SAY IT WAS A VERY BAD MENTAL ILLNESS, A VERY BAD MENTAL ILLNESS. AND REALLY NEVER PRACTICED LAW AFTER THAT POINT IN TIME, BUT HE LIKED TO TALK ABOUT IT A LOT. AND I WAS ON THE RECEIVING END OF THAT, SO HE WOULD JUST SHOW UP. AND IF YOU KNEW HIM, HE COULD BE -- IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT SO MUCH, OKAY, BECAUSE HE WAS VERY OPINIONATED AND HE WAS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LAW EVEN THOUGH HE WASN'T RIGHT IN THE HEAD. AND HE WOULD TALK ABOUT IT AND -- AND I FELT REALLY BAD FOR HIM. BUT I WILL TELL YOU A FUNNY STORY ABOUT TED LAW, III. HIS SON'S NOW MY DOCTOR, BY THE WAY, TOO. HIS MIND'S RIGHT, I HOPE. BUT TED CAME IN MY OFFICE PROBABLY ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO AND HE

WAS LIKE, WESLEY, I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO PRACTICE SOME LAW. HE SAYS, CAN YOU GET ME INVOLVED IN SOME CASES. AND I SAID, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. AND BESIDES, I MEAN, YOU HAVE YOUR FATHER'S STUFF BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE BAR. AND HE SAID, YES, I AM. I SAID, REALLY? SO I FIGURED I HAD HIM THERE. I SAID, WELL, GO DOWN TO THE BAR AND BRING ME SOMETHING BACK SHOWING ME THAT YOU'RE NOT. AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF HE DIDN'T SHOW UP WITH IT. FORTUNATELY, HE NEVER CAME UP WITH ANY CASES. BUT HE REALLY LOVED IT. HE WAS A GOOD-HEARTED PERSON AND HE REALLY WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LAW AND LIKED TO TALK ABOUT IT, EVEN IN THE DAYS WHEN HE WAS NOT DOING VERY WELL. SO WE WILL MISS HIM, AS WELL. AND I THANK ALL OF Y'ALL FOR LISTENING TO ME.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. KIRKLAND. ALL RIGHT. NOW, WE WILL HAVE MR. ED MULLINS, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN ULYSSES BELL, III. MR. MULLINS, THE FLOOR IS YOURS, SIR.

MR. MULLINS: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. MULLINS: JOHN ULYSSES BELL WAS BORN IN LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL AND RECEIVED HIS J.D. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LAW SCHOOL IN 1966, WHERE HE WAS ON THE LAW REVIEW. THAT SAME YEAR, HE BEGAN TO PRACTICE LAW WITH NELSON MULLINS GREER

& SCARBOROUGH, NOW KNOWN AS NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH. JOHN CAME SEVERAL YEARS AFTER I DID AND WAS THE SEVENTH LAWYER IN ITS ONLY OFFICE HERE IN COLUMBIA. AFTER A RECENT MERGER WITH A FLORIDA FIRM OF 150 LAWYERS, THE FIRM IS NOW 725 LAWYERS AND 25 OFFICES IN TEN STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. JOHN WAS A TRIAL LAWYER AND WAS AN IMPORTANT COG IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIAL PRACTICE AT NELSON MULLINS. HE TRIED A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF JURY TRIALS AND HAD A VERY GOOD TRIAL RECORD. JOHN WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF ASSOCIATES. HE LOVED TO DO THAT. HE TRAINED IN THE LITIGATION DEPARTMENT. HE WAS A VERY GOOD MENTOR. HE WAS KNOWN FOR PREPARING HIS CASES VERY WELL, AND EACH LAWYER KNEW WHEN THEY HAD A CASE WITH JOHN THEY BETTER BE PREPARED BEFORE THEY GO TO COURT WITH HIM. JOHN WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEFENSE TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, SOUTH CAROLINA, RICHLAND, AND AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATIONS. HE RETIRED FROM NELSON MULLINS AFTER 35 YEARS OF PRACTICE AND MEDIATED THEREAFTER FOR A FEW YEARS.

JOHN WAS A DEVOTED MAN AND REALLY CHOSE TO BE INVOLVED A LOT WITH HIS CHILDREN BACK DURING HIS PRACTICE OF LAW. HE DID EVERYTHING. HE COACHED LITTLE LEAGUE BALL; HE SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BASEBALL LEAGUE, THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE; HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB, BUT LATER IN LIFE, HE MOVED HIS FAMILY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE HE, EXCUSE ME, RESIDED THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN BLYTHEWOOD. HE SERVED ON IT'S ZONING BOARD AND OTHER TOWN

COMMITTEES AS HE HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY WHEN THEY LIVED IN ARCADIA LAKES. HE SERVED ON MANY COMMITTEES AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING THE DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM AND FACILITATED MANY OF THE BIBLE STUDY CLASSES AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. JOHN WAS A MAN OF GREAT FAITH. HE LOVED THE LORD AND HE LOVED HIS CHURCH VERY MUCH. JOHN WAS AN AVID READER AND READ EXTENSIVELY ABOUT WORLD WAR II AND THE CIVIL WAR. JOHN WAS DEVOTED TO HIS WIFE, GAIL KEELS BELL, WHO IS WITH US TODAY, AND TO WHOM WAS MARRIED FOR 54 YEARS. A HUMOROUS EXAMPLE OF THIS CONNECTION AND DEVOTION THAT ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES TOLD ME ONCE THAT JOHN WAS THE ONLY LAWYER WHO HE KNEW, WHO PLAY GOLF WITH, THAT EVERY SINGLE TIME THEY PLAYED WOULD CHECK WITH GAIL AT THE END OF NINE HOLES IN AN 18-ROUND GOLF GAME. JOHN, YOU KNOW, HE HAD BEEN -- THERE'S A COLLEAGUE HERE THAT'S GONNA BE MEMORIALIZED THAT GAVE THAT COMMENT ABOUT JOHN. AND SO I WOULD THINK THAT THEY ARE PROBABLY TODAY PLAYING A ROUND TOGETHER AS WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES TODAY.

JOHN IS ALSO SURVIVED BY SONS, CHAPLAIN CAPTAIN JEFF JEFF BELL OF HIGHLAND SPRINGS, COLORADO; THAD BELL OF SINGAPORE; GEAN BELL OF COLUMBIA; AND LISA BELL OF MOUNT PLEASANT. JOHN DIED DECEMBER 7 OF 2017 AT THE AGE OF 77. JOHN WAS A FINE LAWYER AND A TRUE CHRISTIAN. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER JOHN WELL AND MISS HIM TERRIBLY. THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR.

MULLINS. NEXT, WE WILL HAVE MR. ROBERT W. BROWN HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN "BEN" THOMAS DEBERRY.

MR. BROWN: THANK YOU, JUDGE HOOD. MY NAME'S ROBERT BROWN. I'VE PRACTICED THE LAST 46 YEARS IN SUMTER, BUT FOR SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THAT -- THE SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THAT, I WAS WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND BEN -- WHEN I FIRST MET BEN DEBERRY, HE CAME TO THAT OFFICE AT THE SAME TIME, SINCE 1965.

BEN WAS A SUMTER BOY WHO WAS BORN INTO A LARGE FAMILY AND WHEN HE DIED ON JANUARY 7TH OF LAST YEAR AT THE AGE OF 81, ALL SEVEN OF HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAD PREDECEASED HIM.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE BEN'S WIFE OF 36 YEARS, FRANCES, AND HIS DAUGHTER, MICHELE BEASLEY. THEY ARE WITH US TODAY. BEN ALSO HAS A SON, MICHAEL, FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, WHO COULD NOT BE HERE TODAY.

BEN HAD A VARIED AND INTERESTING LEGAL CAREER. AFTER GETTING HIS LAW DEGREE IN 1963, HE WENT UP TO NORTH CAROLINA AND ENTERED PRIVATE PRACTICE WITH THE LATE U.S. SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN. HE STAYED UP THERE ABOUT TWO YEARS AND THEN CAME BACK TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, WHERE HE WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY TRIAL LAWYERS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRIAL EXPERIENCE UP IN NORTH CAROLINA. AND FOR FOUR YEARS HE WAS THERE. AND THEN BECAME GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR A FEW YEARS, WENT BACK INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE WITH THE LATE JIM ANDERS AND MIKE RENTZ.

AND THAT DISSOLVED, OF COURSE, WHEN JIM BECAME SOLICITOR. HE THEN WENT TO THE INSURANCE COMMISSION -- INSURANCE DEPARTMENT AS GENERAL COUNSEL FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND WENT BACK INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE IN 1980 OR THEREABOUTS AS SOLO FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS. HE THEN SECURED AN APPOINTMENT AS A FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE. SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO CALL THEM SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGES, BUT THEY DO MORE THAN THAT SOMETIMES. BUT HE -- THAT WAS IN 1982 AND RETIRED -- RETIRED 23 YEARS LATER IN 2005.

BEN WAS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT MAN AND HAD A STRONG WORK ETHIC, AND I REMEMBER SO MUCH FROM THE FOUR YEARS I WAS WITH HIM IN THE AG'S OFFICE. HE WAS EXTREMELY HIGH PRINCIPLED AND HAD A STRONG SENSE OF WHAT WAS RIGHT AND WRONG. AND I CAN GIVE YOU ONE EXAMPLE: GENERAL MCLEOD ASSIGNED HIM TO LEE COUNTY IN THE '60S TO HANDLE OVER 90 INTERSTATE 20 CONDEMNATION CASES. THE VERDICTS WERE ATROCIOUS. THEY WERE AWFUL. AND BEN AND THEN ASSOCIATE COUNSEL, DAN LEE, GOT THE WORD THAT THESE LANDOWNERS AND THEIR FRIENDS AND THEY WERE CONTACTING POTENTIAL JURORS. BEN SAID THEY DEVELOPED NO PROOF. BEN WAS SO UPSET ABOUT THIS AND IT WAS SO CONTRARY TO WHAT HE FELT WAS RIGHT AND WRONG, THAT HE ASKED DAN MCLEOD TO REASSIGN HIM AND HE DID. HE -- HE HONESTLY, AS A -- HE GOT TO THE -- BEN, THE ALG, AND I ONLY HAD ONE CASE BEFORE HIM, THAT WAS A SLAM DUNK THING THAT JUST REQUIRED A HEARING AS A FORMALITY. BUT FRIENDS OF MINE WHO HANDLED SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS TELL ME THAT HE WAS EVEN-HANDED, FAIR, AND

WAS COURTEOUS, KEY WORD, TO BOTH CLAIMANTS AND TO COUNSEL, AND THAT ISN'T ALWAYS TRUE IN THAT OFFICE. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS, HIS WHOLE LIFE, A CORDIAL, GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL THAT WAS RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS AS AN INDIVIDUAL, A PRACTITIONER AND AS A JUDGE. HE WAS EXTREMELY PATRIOTIC. HE HAD BEEN IN THE NAVAL RESERVES FOUR YEARS IN HIS EARLIER YEARS. HE WAS A REAL CARING SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN WHO WAS DEVOTED TO HIS WIFE, HIS CHILDREN, HIS GRANDCHILDREN, HIS COUNTRY, HIS CHURCH, AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION. JUDGE BEN T. DEBERRY LIVED A LIFE THAT WAS TRULY WELL LIVED. THANK YOU.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. BROWN. ALL RIGHT, WE WILL NEXT HEAR FROM MR. JERRY FINNEY, HONORING HIS FATHER, RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE ERNEST FINNEY.

MR. FINNEY: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. FINNEY: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. MY NAME IS JERRY FINNEY AND I AM A LAWYER HERE IN RICHLAND COUNTY. I AM THE FOUNDER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FINNEY LAW FIRM HERE. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF YOU ALL TODAY ON BEHALF OF MY FATHER. I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO SAY MY CONDOLENCES TO ALL OF YOU WHO ARE HERE IN ATTENDANCE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES. I KNOW YOU MISS THEM, AS I MISS MY FATHER.

SECONDLY, I HAVE BEEN IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS EVENT IN THE PAST AND I THINK THAT IT IS APPROPRIATELY CALLED MEMORY HOLDS THE DOOR,

PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE LAWYERS WHO LOVED THE LAW, LIKE MY FATHER DID. MY FATHER LOVED THE LAW. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR FOR OVER 50 YEARS. AFTER HE DIED, THEY LAID HIS BODY IN THE LOBBY OF THE SUPREME COURT. MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE SUPREME COURT AND YOU WILL SEE THE SEAL BEHIND THE JUSTICES THAT SIT ON THE SUPREME COURT. THERE'S A LATIN PHRASE THAT SAYS NIL ULTRA. IF YOU GOOGLE THAT PHRASE, IT SAYS, NOTHING MORE. I THINK THAT IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR FOR 50 YEARS AND THEY LAY YOU TO REST IN THE LOBBY OF THE SUPREME COURT, THAT'S NIL ULTRA.

MY FATHER AS A LAWYER AND AS A LEGISLATOR FOUGHT PASSIONATELY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA. HE PASSIONATELY FOUGHT FOR ITS REVOCATION IN AMERICA AND IT WAS NO SECRET THAT HE WAS PASSIONATELY DEDICATED TO THE ERADICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT MY FATHER LOVED THE LAW. WHEN HE WAS ELECTED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE AND SENATE TO BE A CIRCUIT JUDGE, THEY TESTED HIM. THEY ASSIGNED HIM A DEATH PENALTY CASE IN HORRY COUNTY. THAT CASE WAS *STATE VS. RONALD RUSTY WOOMER*. I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN THAT CASE WAS BEING TRIED IN HORRY COUNTY. I WAS ON MY SPRING BREAK AND A FRIEND OF MINE AND I DECIDED THAT WE WERE GONNA GO DOWN TO MYRTLE BEACH AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY DAD'S HOTEL ROOM THAT HE HAD IN THAT DEATH PENALTY TRIAL. SO WE STOPPED IN CONWAY AND I GOT TO SEE SOME OF THE -- OF THAT TRIAL GOING ON. THE JURY IN THAT TRIAL CONVICTED MR. WOOMER AND MY FATHER

SENTENCED HIM TO DIE. AFTER THAT TRIAL WAS OVER, MR. WOOMER'S MOTHER ASKED COULD SHE SPEAK TO MY FATHER. THE SLED AGENTS THAT WERE PROTECTING MY FATHER ADVISED HIM NO. MY DAD SAID YES, AND MRS. WOOMER WAS BROUGHT BACK TO CHAMBERS AND EVERYONE ASSUMED THAT SHE WAS GOING TO SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM. INSTEAD, SHE SAID, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING MY SON A FAIR TRIAL. THAT TYPE OF AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT I ACTUALLY PERSONALLY WITNESSED GROWING UP IS WHY I WANTED TO BE A LAWYER. NOT BECAUSE OF THE MONEY OR THE PRESTIGE, BUT BECAUSE OF HOW YOU CAN TOUCH PEOPLES' LIVES. I PERSONALLY WITNESSED THAT MYSELF GROWING UP AS A FINNEY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE, I THINK -- I KNOW ONE OF THEM IS HERE. I DON'T KNOW IF SUSAN WIDENER IS HERE OR NOT, SHE WAS MY FATHER'S LAW CLERK WHEN HE WAS IN THE SUPREME COURT. THE OTHER PERSON I WANT TO THANK IS ADAM WHITSETT, WHO WAS MY LAW CLERK AND MY ASSOCIATE WHEN I FOUNDED THE FINNEY LAW FIRM BACK IN 1999. HE IS NOW GENERAL COUNSEL AT SLED. WHEN I -- WHEN MY FATHER RETIRED FROM THE SUPREME COURT AND CAME TO PRACTICE WITH ME, HE JOINED ME IN PRIVATE PRACTICE. WELL, MY DAD WAS VERY, VERY PROUD OF A CASE THAT MANY OF YOU PROBABLY DO NOT KNOW ABOUT. AND, FOR THE RECORD, I WOULD LIKE TO CITE EVERYONE TO THE CASE OF *SHAFFER VS. SOUTH CAROLINA*. THIS CASE IS CITED AT 531 S.E.2D 524, AND IT'S ALSO CITED IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, 532 U.S. 36. THIS IS A DEATH PENALTY CASE IN SOUTH CAROLINA WHERE MY FATHER -- AND I'D LIKE TO THANK ADAM

WHITSETT AND SUSAN WIDENER FOR HELPING ME LOCATE THIS CASE, MY FATHER SPOKE TO ME A LOT ABOUT THIS CASE, THIS DECISION. WHEN HE WAS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT, HE DISSENTED IN A DEATH PENALTY CASE. THAT CASE WAS LATER APPEALED TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. IN THE SUPREME COURT, MY FATHER -- HIS DISSENT FROM SOUTH CAROLINA WAS QUOTED IN THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND THAT CASE WAS REVERSED. I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW HONEST OF A PERSON MY FATHER WAS, BUT THE ONE TIME I ACTUALLY SAW HIM STICK HIS CHEST OUT AND CHEER FOR HIMSELF WAS WHEN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT REVERSED A DEATH PENALTY CASE WHERE HE WAS THE LONE DISSENTER AND CITED HIS DISSENT.

WHEN HE JOINED ME IN PRACTICE, I TRIED TO GET HIM TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE *SHAVER* CASE. WHEN WE WENT TO COURT FOR MOTIONS, TRIALS, AND HEARINGS, I BROUGHT MY FATHER -- WHEN I FOUNDED THE LAW FIRM A BROWN LEATHER AND BOUND PORTFOLIO THAT HAS THE FINNEY LAW FIRM ON IT. THIS IS MINE AND I'VE HAD IT SINCE 1999. HE ALWAYS KEPT THE *SHAVER* CASE WITH HIM ALONG WITH OTHER MATERIAL THAT WOULD BE RELEVANT TO WHAT WE WERE DOING THAT DAY. WELL, AS MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES RECENTLY KNOW, YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS, DIG THROUGH OLD BOXES, LAWYERS KEEP EVERYTHING FOREVER. WELL, MY SISTER WAS GOING THROUGH SOME OF MY DAD'S OLD THINGS AND SHE PRESENTED TO ME RECENTLY MY DAD'S BROWN FINNEY LAW FIRM PORTFOLIO THAT HE CARRIED EVERYTHING AROUND WITH.

WELL, MY DAUGHTER -- MY WIFE IS HERE, ELAINE FINNEY, WE HAVE THREE CHILDREN. AND OUR OLDEST DAUGHTER, FELICIA FINNEY, NOW WORKS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT AS AN INTERN. I'D LIKE FELICIA TO STEP FORWARD FOR JUST A SECOND, PLEASE. MY DAUGHTER IS A RISING SENIOR AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. SHE'S CONSIDERING LAW SCHOOL IN THE FUTURE. SHE CLERKED FOR THE SUPREME COURT. I'D LIKE TO PRESENT HER WITH DAD'S PORTFOLIO OF THE FINNEY LAW FIRM BECAUSE THIS MEMORY HOLDS THE DOOR AND WE WANT THE MEMORY OF DADDY CARRIED ON IN HER LIFE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. FINNEY. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM ROBERT PRICE, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD KENNEDY, JR.

MR. PRICE: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. PRICE: RICHARD KENNEDY AND I PRACTICED LAW TOGETHER 42 YEARS. 42 YEARS WENT BY AND AS ALWAYS, YOU GET TO KNOW SOMEBODY REAL WELL. I WAS CHECKING TITLES FOR STANDARD SAVINGS AND LOAN, RICHARD WAS TRYING A CASE IN THE OLD COURTHOUSE. I WENT DOWN TO WATCH. I NEEDED A JOB AND I CALLED ON RICHARD. AND I SAID, I NEED A JOB. AND I GOT HIRED. I WAS A LAW CLERK. I GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL, PASSED THE BAR, STARTED WORKING AS A YOUNG LAWYER FOR RICHARD. ONE DAY, RICHARD WALKED IN AND SAID, ARE YOU HAPPY HERE. IF HE'D ASKED ME IF I'D DRINK KEROSENE, I'D'VE SAID YES. I SAID, YEAH, I'M HAPPY. HE SAID,

WHY DON'T WE START A PARTNERSHIP ON JANUARY 1. THAT'S PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD, PRETTY HONEST, AND THAT WAS RICHARD KENNEDY. WHAT YOU SAW WAS WHAT YOU GOT. I WAS BLESSED TO HAVE AN EMPLOYER, A PARTNER, AND A FRIEND LIKE RICHARD KENNEDY.

RICHARD WAS INTELLIGENT, BUT HE WAS NOT A SHOW-OFF. RICHARD WAS COMPASSIONATE, BUT HE COULD BE FIRM. RICHARD THOUGHT OUT HIS POSITIONS IN LIFE AND IN THE LAW AND COULD ENUNCIATE THEM VERY WELL. HE DIDN'T SHOOT FROM THE HIP. HE DIDN'T TAKE CHEAP SHOTS. HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP ANOTHER LAWYER, ANOTHER ATTORNEY, AND I DON'T REMEMBER HIM EVER TAKING A DEFAULT JUDGMENT AGAINST ANY OTHER LAWYER WITHOUT A PHONE CALL FIRST. LET'S PLAY BALL. HE JUST BELIEVED IN TREATING OUR FELLOW ATTORNEYS AS HE WISHED TO BE TREATED. THAT WAS HIS MOTTO; THAT'S WHAT HE LIVED. RICHARD WAS A SCOTSMAN AND HE BELIEVED ON STAYING ON A HIGH ROAD. HE STAYED THERE. RICHARD LOVED AMERICA. RICHARD LOVED HIS FAMILY. RICHARD LOVED RICHLAND COUNTY. RICHARD LOVED THE LAW. HE WAS EVEN ON THE BOARD FOR TOWNSHIP AUDITORIUM WHEN IT WAS KIND OF A PARADOXIAL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY. IN MY OPINION, RICHARD KENNEDY WAS A CONSUMMATE LAWYER. I WAS VERY BLESSED TO HAVE HIM AS AN EMPLOYER, AS A PARTNER, AND AS A FRIEND. I THINK OF RICHARD KENNEDY EVERY DAY, ABOUT SOME OF HIS LESSONS IN LIEF AND I MISS HIM. I'M VERY HONORED THAT HIS FAMILY ASKED ME TO DO HIS EULOGY HERE TODAY.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR.

PRICE. ALL RIGHT, WE WILL NEXT HEAR FROM CHARLIE MOORE. MR. MOORE WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT JOHN KOBYLAK.

MR. MOORE: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. MOORE: MY NAME'S CHARLIE MOORE AND I AM HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT RJ KOBYLAK. DAMIAN MURPHY WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF, BUT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY. BUT HE DID FORWARD HIS REMARKS AND I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO READ ON HIS BEHALF REGARDING THE LIFE OF RJ.

DAMIAN WROTE, I SPOKE TO RJ KOBYLAK THREE OR FOUR TIMES A DAY, USUALLY ON THE PHONE FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THE OLD ADAGE THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON ONE HAND YOUR TRUE FRIENDS IS TRUE, AND HE WAS ONE OF THEM TO ME. FRIENDS SHARE LIFE, SHARE SORROWS, JOYS, ASPIRATIONS, DREAMS, AND HAPPINESS. AND YOU EXPERIENCE THESE EMOTIONS TOGETHER DURING YOUR BRIEF TIME ON THIS EARTH. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVEY HIS IMPORTANCE IN MY LIFE OR SHOW THE LOSS AND SADNESS OF TRYING TO FILL A VOID OF NEVER TALKING TO HIM AGAIN.

RJ KOBYLAK WAS BORN AND RAISED IN BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK. HE WAS IN THE AIR FORCE FOR FOUR YEARS. HE RECEIVED HIS MBA AND LAW DEGREE BOTH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO.

DAMIAN WROTE, I FIRST MET RJ OVER 20 YEARS AGO ON A LEGAL PROJECT WE WORKED ON TOGETHER. I WAS A YOUNG ATTORNEY WHO HAD A DEEP, THICK PENNSYLVANIA ACCENT. HE CAME UP TO ME AND INTRODUCED

HIMSELF AND I SUDDENLY READ ON HIS FACE, YOU ARE GOING TO NEED A FRIEND IN THE SOUTH. RJ AND I BECAME INSTANT FRIENDS DOING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, SOCIALIZING. HE LOVED GOING TO THE MOVIE THEATER AND WATCHING FILMS. RJ HAD A GREAT GENUINE HEARTY LAUGH, AND ONCE YOU HEARD IT, YOU NEVER FORGOT THE LAUGHTER OR HIM. RJ WAS UNCONVENTIONAL AND QUIRKY. HE WAS A GENTLE SOUL. HE WOULD NOT HURT A FLY AND TRIED TO HELP OTHERS WHEN HE COULD. RJ'S WORD WAS HIS BOND AND HE HELPED ME OUT ON TOO MANY OCCASIONS TO COUNT.

RJ WAS A TRIAL ATTORNEY. AS MEMBERS OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR KNOW, TRIALS CONSIST OF MANY VARIABLES, TESTIMONY, WITNESSES, FACTS, TACTICS, THE JURY, THE LAW, ETCETERA. RJ WON AND LOST TRIALS, BUT HE WAS NEVER AFRAID TO TRY ONE AND REPRESENT HIS CLIENTS.

IN THE YEAR 2001, RJ, JIM MERRITT, AND DAMIAN MURPHY, THEY ALL WORKED FOR THE LAW FIRM OF BERRY QUACKENBUSH & STUART. AND I WILL AT THIS TIME OFFER MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF JIM MERRITT. JIM WAS ONE OF THE FINEST PUBLIC SPEAKERS I HAD EVER HEARD, TRULY ELECTRIFYING. THE LEGACY OF HIS FAMILY AND HIS VISIONS FOR THE PRE-PAID LEGAL PROVIDER LAW FIRM OR LEGAL SHIELD AS IT IS KNOWN TODAY WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED. AS MAHATMA GANDHI ONCE SAID, THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN TRYING TO INCREASE ITS SPEED, WHICH I BELIEVE IS IMPORTANT TO ENJOY LIFE, TO SLOW DOWN AND SAVOR IT. RJ'S LIFE MAKES ME THINK OF THIS AND HIS DEATH HAS HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON ME. LIFE FLOWS LIKE THE EBB AND FLOW OF WAVES FROM THE OCEAN IN

PERPETUITY THROUGH THE SEASONS OF SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, AND WINTER, AND THE CYCLE CONTINUES YEAR AFTER YEAR. THE YEARS PASS AND YOU THINK YOU WILL HAVE YOUR GOOD FRIENDS FOREVER, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE. GOD PUT RJ IN MY LIFE FOR A REASON. THANK YOU, RJ, FOR BEING THERE FOR ME THROUGH THICK AND THIN AND THE IMPACTS YOU HAD ON MY LIFE.

LASTLY, DAMIAN SAID, IF I WAS HERE IN PERSON, I WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TEARS AT THIS JUNCTURE. I HAVE ONE LAST THING TO DO. I WILL RAISE A GLASS TO ALL OF HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR WHO WILL LOVE AND SORROW MISS THE PRESENCE AND THE LIFE OF ROBERT JOHN KOBYLAK, ESQUIRE. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. MOORE. WE WILL NOW HERE FROM ROB RANSOM, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM LEVENTIS. MR. RANSOM, THE FLOOR IS YOURS.

MR. RANSOM: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

GOOD AFTERNOON. I WANNA THANK EACH OF YOU FOR COMING HERE TO THIS SAD DAY. I CAN TELL YOU IT'S A GREAT CHALLENGE TO TRY TO GIVE REMARKS TO SUCH AN ESTEEMED GROUP OF GUESTS ON BEHALF OF MY GOOD FRIEND, JIM LEVENTIS. MANY OF YOU KNOW JIM. HE WAS BORN IN CAYCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GREW UP THERE. HE WAS A COLUMBIA FELLOW. HE LIVED HERE VIRTUALLY HIS ENTIRE LIFE. HE GRADUATED FROM BROOKLAND-CAYCE HIGH SCHOOL AND WHEN HE WAS IN THE SEVENTH GRADE, WENT WITH HIS CLASS ON A TRIP TO THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE WHERE HE MET THE LATE

JUDGE PERRY, WHO HAD A VERY DRAMATIC IMPACT ON JIM AND CONVINCED HIM AT THAT TIME THAT HE WANTED TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL AND BECOME A LAWYER. JIM ENDED UP ATTENDING AND GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1984. HE THEN SPENT A YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN HONOLULU TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT HE WAS MAKING THE CORRECT CAREER PATH. AND THEN ALONG WITH MYSELF, HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW'S CLASS OF 1988. JIM COMES FROM A FAMILY OF LAWYERS. HIS SISTER, GIGI, IS HERE TODAY; HIS OLDER BROTHER, LEIGH, WHO IS HERE TODAY; HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, ROBERT LEWIS, WHO IS HERE TODAY; HIS NEPHEW, GARRISON, WHO IS HERE TODAY, THANK YOU FOR COMING.

AND, AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE LEVENTIS FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS HAD THE WINNER'S CIRCLE RESTAURANT, WHICH WAS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LAW SCHOOL ON GREENE STREET, AND JIMMY WORKED THERE AND HELPED TO SERVE MEALS TO VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY WHO CAME THROUGH THE LAW SCHOOL FOR ABOUT A 25-YEAR PERIOD OF TIME. AND I'M SURE THAT MANY OF YOU, IF YOU WENT TO SCHOOL HERE AT USC, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DINE THERE. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET JIM AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEVENTIS FAMILY.

JIMMY ENDED UP CLERKING FOR THE HONORABLE SIDNEY FLOYD, WHO WAS A CIRCUIT JUDGE DOWN IN MYRTLE BEACH AND CONWAY, WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, JIM HAD A NICKNAME FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY. AND JUDGE FLOYD'S NICKNAME WAS

TACO SID, TACO SIDNEY FLOYD, BECAUSE OF HIM BEING OVER THERE WITH THE TACO CID RESTAURANT OVER IN WEST COLUMBIA AND IT JUST SORT OF FIT WITH HIS NICKNAME.

AFTER HE GOT DONE WITH JUDGE FLOYD, JIMMY WENT INTO PRACTICE WITH HIS OLDER BROTHER, LEIGH, AND THEIR BUILDING -- THEY HAD A BUILDING OVER ON ANTHONY AVENUE. AND AFTER A TIME THEY SOLD THAT AND MOVED INTO THE BUILDING WHERE WE ARE CURRENTLY PRACTICING LAW ON BULL STREET. JIMMY AND I FORMED THE LEVENTIS AND RANSOM LAW FIRM IN JANUARY OF 1997 AND WERE FORTUNATE TO ENJOY 20 YEARS OF PRACTICE TOGETHER PRIOR TO HIS DEATH.

JIMMY GOT MARRIED IN 2000 AND HAD THREE CHILDREN, WHO WERE REALLY THE LIGHTS OF HIS LIFE. WE HAVE SARAH GLENN, HIS OLDEST IS HERE TODAY; PETE, HIS SON, WHO'S HERE TODAY; AND HIS YOUNGEST, HOLLIS, WHO I UNDERSTAND IS TRAVELING AND WASN'T ABLE TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY. BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY CONSIDERED A GREAT BLESSING IN HIS LIFE AND HE JUST LOVED HIS CHILDREN, PARTICIPATED WITH THEM IN THEIR ACTIVITIES. SARAH GLENN PLAYED A LOT OF SOCCER AND HE WAS A VERY VOCAL SUPPORTER OF HER SOCCER ACTIVITIES AND HER TEAMS. AND HE ALSO HELPED PETE WITH HIS SCOUTING ACTIVITIES AND WITH PETE HISSELF.

JIM HAD A LOT OF INTERESTS IN LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE LAW. HE ENJOYED SOCCER AND HE PLAYED GOLF. HE AND I WENT SKIING TOGETHER. OUTSIDE OF THE LAW, HE WAS A VERY FAITHFUL SUPPORTER OF BICYCLE RACING. OUR FIRM SUPPORTED THE BICYCLE RACE AND TEAMS FOR THE OUTSPOKIN'

BICYCLE SHOP HERE IN COLUMBIA, THE AC FLORA HIGH SCHOOL HAD A BICYCLE RACING TEAM THAT HE SUPPORTED EVERY YEAR. AND JIMMY ALSO TRAVELED VERY EXTENSIVELY, ESPECIALLY OVER IN EUROPE. SOME OF HIS FAVORITE PLACES WERE BUDAPEST, PRAGUE, AND AMSTERDAM.

YOU KNOW, JIMMY WAS THE KIND OF FELLOW THAT ANYBODY WHO KNOWS HIM KNOWS HE HAD A BOOMING VOICE AND A BELLOWING LAUGH, AND YOU COULD HEAR IT COMING FROM A MILE AWAY. AND I TELL PEOPLE, I SAID, IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME GET OVER HIS DEATH, COME BY THE OFFICE AND STAND OUT IN THE PARKING LOT AND SHOUT FROM YOUR CAR AND THAT WILL REMIND US OF JIM.

AND INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, AND PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING AROUND HERE FOR THOSE WHO KNEW HIM, JIMMY WAS NOT A STUDENT OF THE LAW. I CAN TELL YOU IN GOING THROUGH HIS THINGS IN HIS OFFICE, HE AT ONE TIME VERY PROUDLY BOUGHT THIS BEAUTIFUL GLEAMING SET OF BOOKS, THE SOUTH CAROLINA JURISPRUDENCE, AND HE HAD THEM ON THE SHELF IN HIS OFFICE. AND WHEN WE WERE GOING THROUGH HIS THINGS IN HIS OFFICE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT THROUGH THE DUST AND COBWEBS THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT HE EVER ACTUALLY LOOKED AT THEM. JIMMY, IN HIS ENTIRE CAREER, NEVER TOOK A SINGLE DEPOSITION, BUT HE HAD A RATHER REMARKABLE TALENT IN TRYING DUI CASES. AND HE, AT ONE POINT IN TIME, HAD SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED TO A VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL TWELVE OF HIS CLIENTS IN A ROW. TWELVE, TWELVE STRAIGHT JURY TRIALS ON DUI CASES WHERE HIS CLIENTS WERE ACQUITTED. I THINK THAT'S A PRETTY REMARKABLE

ACHIEVEMENT. SO EVEN THOUGH HE WASN'T A TREMENDOUS STUDENT OF THE LAW, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER WAS THAT JIMMY REALLY LOVED PEOPLE AND HE WAS A STUDENT OF RELATIONSHIPS AND PEOPLE. AND HE REALLY -- HIS -- HIS LIFE'S TALENT, IF YOU WILL, WAS TO TAKE THE THINGS THAT WE HAD LEARNED IN LAW SCHOOL AND USE HIS LAW DEGREE TO TRY TO HELP PEOPLE. THAT WAS WHAT HE REALLY -- THAT'S WHAT HE REALLY LOVED TO DO, AND HE WAS REALLY PRETTY GOOD AT IT. I CAN TELL YOU WHEN -- JIMMY BEING A STUDENT OF THE LAW, WHEN WE WERE STUDYING FOR THE BAR EXAM, GETTING READY TO TAKE THAT TEST, AND I TELL YOU, JIMMY WAS SWEATING ABOUT THAT TEST, BUT HIS -- HIS ACADEMIC RIGOR SHOWED THROUGH, YOU KNOW, THE SAYING THAT WE USED TO HAVE WAS IT'S A GOOD THING THAT HE PASSED THE BAR, BUT IF HE DIDN'T, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN READY TO BE A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER. INSTEAD OF PRACTICE OR STUDYING FOR THE BAR, ALL HE DID THAT SUMMER WAS PLAY BASKETBALL OVER AT HEATHWOOD, WITH SUCH LUMINARIES AS, YOU KNOW, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, JAY LUCAS, ONE OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS; JUSTICE JOHN FEW, ANOTHER ONE OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS. JIMMY REALLY TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN THE PEOPLE WHO HE HAD MET AND THE FRIENDS THAT HE MADE IN LAW SCHOOL AND THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, AND SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE BAR WERE PEOPLE THAT HE CONSIDERED VERY DEAR FRIENDS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY A MENTOR TO MANY YOUNG LAWYERS, MYSELF INCLUDED. A MENTOR TO CHRIS DEKLE, WHO CAME FROM THE NORTHEAST. I WAS FROM THE MIDWEST. JIMMY SORT OF HAD THAT SOFT SPOT -- SOFT SPOT IN HIS HEART FOR PEOPLE

WHO WERE FROM OUTSIDE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TOOK US UNDER HIS WING. MYSELF, CHRIS DEKLE, AND DR. MIKE HAYES, JOHNNY BALLISSERIE, AND OTHERS. WE'RE GONNA MISS JIM. THERE'S NO WAY TO FILL THE VOID THAT HE LEFT IN OUR LIVES, BUT AS THEY SAY IN THE GREEK CHURCH, OF WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER, MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL. THANK YOU.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. RANSOM. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM MR. KEITH BABCOCK, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF A. CAMDEN LEWIS.

MR. BABCOCK: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. BABCOCK: IT'S MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TODAY TO SPEAK ABOUT MY LONGTIME FRIEND AND LAW PARTNER, CAM LEWIS. EVERYONE HERE TODAY EITHER KNEW CAM OR KNEW CAM BY REPUTATION. HE WAS A GREAT TRIAL LAWYER, GREAT APPELLATE LAWYER, TRIED CASES AND ARGUED CASES IN MOST STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS. HE EVEN ARGUED TWO CASES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, WINNING THE *LUCAS V. SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL* CASE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LEADING CASES INVOLVING GOVERNMENTAL TAKINGS.

CAM MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON HONORED TODAY WHO WENT BY THREE NAMES DURING HIS LIFE. HE STARTED AS ART, BUT THAT WAS DROPPED WHEN STUDENTS IN SCHOOL MADE FUN OF HIS NAME, RHYMING WITH A CERTAIN BODILY FUNCTION. HE THEN BECAME CAMMIE UNTIL HE CLERKED FOR JUSTICE LITTLEJOHN IN 1972, WHO TOLD HIM VERY STERNLY THAT HE COULDN'T BE A

TRIAL LAWYER IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND BE KNOWN AS CAMMIE. WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS AFTER THAT, IT WAS WAS CAM.

CAM SERVED AS ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER THE GENERAL, DAN MCLEOD, AND HE WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE IN 1978. IN 1984, JOHNNY GREGORY, CAM, AND I FORMED LEWIS, BABCOCK & GREGORY. WE WERE LATER JOINED BY COSTA PLEICONES, DARRYL HAWKINS, MARY GEIGER LEWIS, AND OTHER FINE ATTORNEYS, INCLUDING JIMMA KNIGHT. CAM AND I WERE VERY PROUD THAT OUR SMALL FIRM HAD AS TWO ALUMS A UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT AND A SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE.

WHILE LAW WAS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT TO CAM, NOTHING WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY. HIS WIFE, MARY, HIS CHILDREN AIMEE, WILL, AND WALLIS, AND HIS GRANDCHILDREN, CAROLINE, GRACE AND MICHAEL MEANT THE WORLD TO HIM. ONE OF CAM'S HAPPIEST MOMENTS WAS SEEING WILL MARRY ALI A COUPLE OF MONTHS BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY.

CAM'S FATHER, PAPPY LEWIS, WAS A COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACH AND HE HAD A LONG TENURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA, WHICH IS PRIMARILY WHERE CAM GREW UP. NOW, CAM NEVER REALLY LOST PARTS OF WEST VIRGINIA BECAUSE FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE, HE HAD SOME TORTURED PRONUNCIATIONS OF WORDS SUCH AS MAHOGANY, WHICH SOME HOW IN WEST VIRGINIA IS KNOWN AS MAHAWGONEY.

CAM WENT TO WEST POINT, AND HE WAS THE STARTING QUARTERBACK FOR THE FOOTBALL TEAM. NOW, I DIDN'T SEE CAM PLAY IN COLLEGE, BUT I DID SEE THE HIGHLIGHT REEL OF HIS SENIOR SEASON, WHICH WAS NARRATED BY

MEL ALLEN. AND NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE WAS A MUCH LARGER QUARTERBACK THAN OTHERS IN THE 1960S OR SINCE. I CAN TELL YOU FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE RIFLE ARM THAT CAM HAD BECAUSE I MADE THE MISTAKE ON ONE OCCASION OF AGREEING TO HAVE A CATCH WITH CAM IN FRONT OF OUR LAUREL STREET BUILDING. AFTER THREE OR FOUR PASSES, I QUIT. MY HANDS WERE THROBBING AND I WAS ONLY HAPPY THAT NOTHING ELSE ON MY BODY HAD GOTTEN HURT. I'M REALLY NOT SURE MY HANDS RECOVERED FULL FEELING AFTER THAT EVENT.

NOW, THERE'S SOME THINGS ABOUT CAM THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU UNLESS YOU KNEW HIM WELL. FOR INSTANCE, CAM HAD A VERY GOOD EYE FOR FURNITURE AND FIXTURES AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE ARRANGED IN A ROOM. NOW, HIS OPINION ON HIS VIEW OF A ROOM WAS NEVER REALLY UP FOR DISCUSSION. WE REFER TO HIM AS A FRUSTRATED INTERIOR DECORATOR. WHEN CAM AND MARY MOVED INTO THEIR CONDO AT THE HERITAGE, MARY PLACED A VASE OR SOME OTHER SMALL OBJECT ON A TABLE ONE DAY, ONLY TO COME HOME AND FIND THAT CAM HAD MOVED IT TO SOME OTHER LOCATION. NOW, MARY PATIENTLY EXPLAINED TO CAM WHY THE ITEM LOOKED BETTER WHERE SHE HAD PLACED IT, AND MOVED IT BACK. CAM LISTENED TO MARY, BUT THE NEXT DAY HE MOVED IT BACK TO WHERE HE PUT IT. NOW, THIS PROCESS CONTINUED ONE OR TWO MORE TIMES, MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF CAM. AND, IN THE END, THE OBJECT WAS LEFT WHERE HE HAD PLACED IT.

NOW, INTERESTINGLY, CAM WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT

WOMEN'S SHOE DESIGNERS AND BRANDS, WHICH IS PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO MARY'S GOOD TASTE IN SHOES. HOWEVER, MOST MEN DON'T ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER WOMEN ABOUT THEIR SHOES. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS, CAM AND I WERE MEETING WITH A FEMALE ATTORNEY AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT THE CASE, CAM HAD TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO THE TYPE OF SHOE THE ATTORNEY WAS WEARING. OF COURSE, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT, BUT THEN I QUICKLY LEARNED THAT THAT BOTH CHARMED AND DISARMED THE OTHER LAWYER WE WERE TALKING TO.

NOW, ONE THING THAT ANYBODY WHO KNEW CAM KNOWS WAS HE LOVED GOSSIP AND SECRETS. NOW HIS LOVE FOR HEARING THIS TYPE OF NEWS WAS ONLY RIVALED BY HIS ABILITY TO QUICKLY DISSEMINATE IT. THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD HEAR FREQUENTLY WHEN YOU WOULD COME TO THE OFFICE WAS, DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS. NOW, CAM WAS SIMPLY GENETICALLY INCAPABLE OF KEEPING A JUICY SECRET TO HIMSELF. AND WE ALL LEARNED THAT UNLESS YOU WERE WILLING TO HAVE THAT NEWS ON A BILLBOARD ON GERVAIS STREET, YOU SIMPLY COULD NOT TELL CAM.

NOW, CAM WAS A FEROCIOUS ADVOCATE FOR HIS CLIENTS, BUT HE WAS REMARKABLY KIND AND SOFT WHEN IT CAME TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE. IF A FRIEND NEEDED HELP OR A LOAN, CAM WAS ALWAYS THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN SOMETHING DIFFICULT HAD TO BE DONE AT THE OFFICE, CAM SIMPLY COULDN'T DO IT. SO WHEN IT CAME TIME TO DO THINGS LIKE FIRING PEOPLE AT THE OFFICE, YOU NOW KNOW WHAT MY ROLE WAS IN THE OFFICE.

CAM ALSO HAD A QUICK SMILE. HE COULD FREQUENTLY GET AWAY WITH A COMMENT THAT HAD A SHARP EDGE BECAUSE HE FOLLOWED IT WITH THAT QUICK SMILE AND IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO LIGHTEN A SITUATION.

IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE THAT CAM'S GONE, BUT WE'VE BEEN TELLING CAM STORIES NEARLY EVERYDAY SINCE NOVEMBER. AND I KNOW THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S GONNA CONTINUE ON FOREVER.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. BABCOCK. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM CLINTON WALLACE, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH GRAYDON MCCRORY.

MR. WALLACE: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. I'M HONORED TO SPEAK TODAY ABOUT MY GRANDMOTHER, WHO PREFERRED TO BE CALLED SARAH.

MY WIFE, JENNA, IS A LAWYER, AND RIGHT AFTER JENNA FINISHED HER FIRST YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL, SHE MET SARAH FOR THE FIRST TIME. SARAH ASKED HER WHAT KIND OF LAWYER SHE WANTED TO BE, AND JENNA RESPONDED THAT SHE THOUGHT SHE WANTED TO BE A BANKRUPTCY LAWYER. SARAH LOOKED AT HER AND SAID, WELL, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SHE WAS CANDID, DEFINITELY OUTSPOKEN.

BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, SHE NEVER SAID THE WORDS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. SHE CERTAINLY HEARD THOSE WORDS. SHE SAW THOSE WORDS SPOKEN MANY TIMES BECAUSE HER FATHER, CLINT GRAYDON, WAS A COURTROOM LAWYER BACK WHEN THAT MEANT BEING IN COURT ALMOST EVERY DAY. SHE WOULD GO AND WATCH HIS PERFORMANCES. SEVERAL

YEARS AFTER SHE GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL, SHE WAS IN THE COURTROOM TO SEE THURGOOD MARSHALL ARGUING IN THE *BRIGGS V. ELLIOTT* CASE. I THINK THAT WATCHING THAT TRIAL FROM THE GALLERY CERTAINLY ENCAPSULATES A LOT ABOUT SARAH'S EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER AND AS A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY.

ON THE ONE HAND, SHE WAS SORT OF AN OUTSIDER AT THE BOTTOM OF LEGAL HIERARCHY. SHE WASN'T THE FIRST WOMAN TO GRADUATE FROM USC LAW, BUT SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST. AND SHE WAS ONLY REALLY THERE IN THE EARLY 1940S BECAUSE MOST OF THE MEN WERE FIGHTING IN THE WAR. HER FAVORITE CLASS IN SCHOOL WAS WILLS AND TRUSTS, BUT WHEN SHE FINISHED LAW SCHOOL, SHE DIDN'T PRACTICE LAW. SHE MARRIED; SHE HAD FIVE CHILDREN. SHE RAISED HER FAMILY FOR 25 YEARS WHILE HER HUSBAND WAS THE PROFESSIONAL. AFTER SARAH'S FATHER DIED, SHE JOINED HIS FORMER PRACTICE, WHICH WAS THEN RUN BY HER BROTHER, GUS GRAYDON. EVEN THEN, HER BROTHER WAS THE ONE IN COURT. SHE WAS NOT. SHE FILLED A FAIRLY TYPICAL ROLE FOR FEMALE LAWYERS OF HER VINTAGE. SHE WAS THE BACK OFFICE LAWYER. SHE DID SO MUCH OF THE WORK, REAL LEGAL WORK, BUT SHE WAS RARELY IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

AT THE SAME TIME THAT SARAH WAS SORT OF RELEGATED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LEGAL HIERARCHY, SHE WAS BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF HER PLACE AT THE TOP OF A TOXICALLY FAULTY RACIAL HIERARCHY. USC LAW WAS A SEGREGATED INSTITUTION WHEN SHE ATTENDED, AND THERE WAS NO LAW SCHOOL FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SOUTH CAROLINA AT THAT TIME. IN

THE *BRIGGS* CASE, THE DISTRICT COURT THAT SHE WATCHED UPHELD SEGREGATED SCHOOLS HERE. SARAH REMEMBERED ONE OF THE JUDGES IN THE MAJORITY BEING OPENLY PREJUDICED DURING THE ARGUMENT. SHE WAS MOVED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROTESTORS AND SHE EVENTUALLY COMMITTED HERSELF TO RACIAL JUSTICE. SHE HELPED OPEN SEVERAL LOW INCOME DAYCARE CENTERS AROUND COLUMBIA AND SHE SERVED ON THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S COMMISSION ON RACISM. THESE EXPERIENCES WORKING WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PLACES OF DIFFERENT COLORS WERE PROFOUNDLY IMPACTFUL AND IMPORTANT FOR SARAH AND SHE MADE A REAL POSITIVE CHANGE IN HER COMMUNITY.

I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A QUOTE FROM HER WRITING ABOUT THESE EXPERIENCES, WHICH TO ME FEELS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW. SHE WROTE, IN THE DEEPEST WAY WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND PREJUDICE, EVEN CATEGORIZING PEOPLE AS US AND THEM, IS WRONG.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AND PRIVILEGE TO REMEMBER SARAH GRAYDON MCCRORY.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. WALLACE. NEXT, WE WILL HEAR FROM GEORGE MCELVEEN. MR. MCELVEEN WILL BE HONORING GEORGE RAYMOND MCELVEEN, JR.

MR. MCELVEEN: YOUR HONOR, PLEASE, SIR?

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. MCELVEEN: BASICALLY, A COLUMBIA BOY, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED WHEN THEY HEAR THAT I WAS BORN IN TEXAS. BUT I WAS BORN IN

TEXAS IN 1957. MY FATHER WAS IN THE AIR FORCE AT ELLINGTON -- THEY CALLED IT ELLINGTON FIELD AT THE TIME; IT'S ELLINGTON AIR FORCE BASE NOW. HE WAS A NAVIGATOR OF A C-135 AND C-130 CARGO PLANES. THIS WAS A TIME WHEN THERE WAS NO GPS. RADIO POSITIONING WAS A NEWFANGLED TECHNOLOGY AND THESE BIG PLANES WERE FLOWN USING A PAPER CHART, A COMPASS AND A PENCIL.

BY THE TIME I MOVED TO COLUMBIA, I WAS THREE YEARS OLD AND I HAD LIVED IN SACRAMENTO, CHARLESTON, AND HOUSTON. THAT'S WHEN DAD WENT ON TO LAW SCHOOL. I HAVE VERY GOOD MEMORIES, EVEN NOW, AT THAT AGE OF LIVING IN THE UNIVERSITY TERRACE MARRIED STUDENT DORMITORIES, RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL.

DAD WENT INTO PRACTICE IN 1963 WITH HIS FATHER IN THE LURID, GREEN SECURITY FEDERAL BUILDING RIGHT NEXT TO THE OLD COURTHOUSE ON WASHINGTON STREET. HE, LIKE MANY PEOPLE HERE TODAY, SAW THE PRACTICE OF LAW CHANGE FROM THE LEISURELY, GENTLEMAN PROFESSION INTO THE TECHNO- -- INTO THE HARD-DRIVEN TECHNOCRACY THAT WE SEE TODAY. BACK IN THE DAY, ACCORDING TO HIM, CIRCUIT COURT, BOTH COMMON PLEAS AND GENERAL SESSIONS, CONVENED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IF THEY HAD SIX TERMS, THEN THE YEAR WAS A BRUTAL SCHEDULE. ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, THAT WAS THE TIME FOR A PROTRACTED LUNCH IN THE BASEMENT OF TAPP'S FOLLOWED BY A STROLL TO THE COURTHOUSE WHERE THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT SWAPPING YOUR ORANGE WITH THE

JUDGES AND THE COURTHOUSE STAFF. TO SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH HE HAD A FOOT PLANTED IN BOTH OF THESE ERAS, HE ONCE ASKED ME TO FAX A DOCUMENT AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER, BUT IN THOSE OLD MACHINES, YOU'D FOLD THE PAPER LIKE THIS; YOU'D DIAL THE NUMBER; AND ONCE THE CONNECTION WAS MADE, IT WOULD SNATCH THE PAPER OUT OF YOUR HAND AND INTO THE MACHINE. AND JUST AS I WAS DOING THAT, HE BURST FROM HIS OFFICE AND SAID, WAIT, WAIT, DID YOU MAKE A COPY.

I ENTERED PRIVATE PRACTICE WITH MY FATHER AND MY GRANDFATHER, WHICH WAS A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE WITH BOTH FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS. MY FATHER WAS G. RAYMOND MCELVEEN, SR. AND YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT I GOT PLENTY OF ADVICE DURING THAT TIME. DAD WAS REALLY MORE SUITED FOR THE OLD STYLE OF PRACTICE. I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW HIM TURN SOMEONE DOWN. I DON'T THINK HE EVER SAID, YOU KNOW, THERE'S JUST NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE FOR YOU. HE LOVED PEOPLE AND HE WOULD SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH A PERSON AS THAT PERSON FELT HE NEEDED. HE NEVER LOOKED AT A CLOCK. HE'D DISAPPEAR IN HIS OFFICE FOR 30, 45 AN HOUR WITH A PERSON. AND NO MATTER HOW UNTENABLE THEIR POSITION, I THINK THEY ALWAYS FELT LIKE THEY HAD GOTTEN A GOOD EAR, THAT THEIR PROBLEM HAD BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND THAT THEY HAD AT LEAST RECEIVED GOOD ADVICE.

DAD HAD AN INGRAINED SENSE OF FAIRNESS. IF HE'D QUOTED A FEE AND IF IT SEEMED IT HAD GONE MORE EASILY THAN HE THOUGHT, HE WOULD QUITE FREQUENTLY CUT THE FEE. AND JUST AS OFTEN, HE WOULD TELL SOMEONE THAT WAS PROVIDING HIM SERVICE, I THINK YOU'RE CHARGING ME TOO MUCH.

FOR YEARS AFTER HE RETIRED, IT WOULD BE VERY COMMON FOR AN ELDERLY LADY OR GENTLEMAN TO SHOW UP AT THE OFFICE UNANNOUNCED, NO APPOINTMENT, AND ASK TO SEE DAD. THEY'D BE TOLD THAT DAD HAD RETIRED AND VERY RELUCTANTLY THEY WOULD AGREE TO SEE ME. THEY NEVER SAID I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME. THEY NEVER SAID, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME. THEY ALWAYS SAID, THIS IS WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO. AND THAT SEEMED STRANGE TO ME FOR A WHILE, BUT IT MADE SENSE BECAUSE INVARIABLY AS THEY LEFT THE OFFICE, THEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY, YOUR FATHER ALWAYS TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME, AND THEY EXPECTED ME TO DO NO LESS.

DAD WAS GRUFF, AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE EVEN SAID HE WAS INCORRIGIBLE, BUT HE HAD A DEEP LOVE AND A FIERCE LOYALTY FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AND WHEN HE DIED A YEAR AGO, HE WAS SURROUNDED BY BOTH. THANK YOU.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. MCELVEEN. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM TED VON KELLER, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES ALMOND MERRITT, JR.

MR. VON KELLER: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. VON KELLER: I HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THE DECISION OF WHAT I SHOULD SAY TODAY ABOUT MY DEAR FRIEND, JIM MERRITT. I RECOGNIZE IF I GAVE THIS MEMORIAL THE WAY JIM WOULD HAVE WANTED IT, IT WOULD BE SARDONIC, FUNNY, EXTREMELY IRREVERENT AND CANDIDLY SELF-CRITICAL.

IF, HOWEVER, I GAVE THE TALK HIS BELOVED WIFE AND WONDERFUL CHILDREN WANTED, I WOULD PRAISE HIS EXCEPTIONAL INTELLECT, HIS CREATIVITY, HIS LOVE OF THE LAW, AND HIS GREAT LEGAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. SO, I WILL DO BOTH.

JIM WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 25, 1956, IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, THE SON OF MS. ELIZABETH LIBBY LACKEY MERRITT AND THE LATE JAMES ALMOND MERRITT, SR. HE GRADUATED FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CHARLESTON AND FURMAN UNIVERSITY IN GREENVILLE. HE OBTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1982, WHERE HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE WIG AND ROBE AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW. AFTER EARNING HIS LAW DEGREE, JIM CLERKED FOR THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. SIMMONS, JR., CHIEF JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA. JIM ALSO SERVED AS A SPEECH WRITER FOR SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR DICK RILEY.

JIM BEGAN HIS LEGAL PRACTICE WITH NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH AND LATER PRACTICED MEDICAL MALPRACTICE WITH FARRELL FURR BEFORE JOINING THE BERRY DUNBAR FIRM, WHICH LATER MERGED WITH ADAMS QUACKENBUSH HERRING & STUART AND BECAME BERRY QUACKENBUSH & STUART.

AS A PARTNER AT THAT FIRM, JIM TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRM'S PREPAID LEGAL DIVISION, WHICH PROVIDED LEGAL SERVICES FOR MIDDLE CLASS CITIZENS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

IN 2006, JIM LEFT BERRY QUACKENBUSH TO JOIN A NORTH CAROLINA

FIRM AND BECAME THE MANAGING PARTNER OF MERRITT WEBB, A LARGE REGIONAL LAW FIRM HANDLING THE LEGAL ISSUES OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LEGAL SHIELD MEMBERS IN NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE. JIM WAS ADMITTED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR AND MOVED HIS PRACTICE TO NORTH CAROLINA IN 2007 WHERE HE MANAGED AND SUPERVISED ALL ASPECTS OF THE MERRITT WEBB LEGAL SHIELD DIVISION, WHILE CONTINUING TO PROVIDE GENERAL LAW FIRM MANAGEMENT AND LITIGATING PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND TRUCKING ACCIDENT CASES.

THROUGHOUT HIS LEGAL CAREER, JIM EXHIBITED THE SKILLS OF A BRILLIANT TRIAL LAWYER. HE HAD IMMENSE TRIAL PRESENCE AND WAS A NATURAL CROSS-EXAMINER. LIKE ALL NATURAL TRIAL LAWYERS, JIM LIVED FOR THE COURTROOM. HE WAS FEARLESS AND LOVED THE UNANTICIPATED TWISTS AND TURNS OF A TRIAL, AND THAT IS WHERE HE EXCELLED. HE HAD AN AMAZINGLY QUICK BRAIN AND WAS CAPABLE OF DEVISING A NEW LEGAL STRATEGY INSTANTANEOUSLY TO CHANGE WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS OF A TRIAL.

THOSE ARE THE PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES, QUALITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JIM MERRITT. NOW, I'LL SPEAK ABOUT THE PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES OF MY FRIEND, JIMMY.

JIMMY HAD THE MOST SARDONIC, HUMOROUS VIEW OF LIFE AND HANDLED ITS UPS AND DOWNS WITH HUMOR AND APLOMB. HE LOVED KARAOKE AND BELIEVED THAT HE WAS A REINCARNATION OF BARRY WHITE.

WHEN WE WERE PARTNERS, THE PARTNERS CALLED A SPECIAL PARTNERS MEETING AND VOTED NOT TO HAVE ANY MORE KARAOKE AT THE FIRM CHRISTMAS PARTY BECAUSE JIM INSISTED ON SINGING BARRY WHITE SONGS OVER AND OVER. JIM ALSO BELIEVED HE WAS THE GREATEST DANCER THAT GOD HAD EVER CREATED AND LIKED TO COMPARE HIMSELF TO THE FUN GIRLS OF THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW.

JIM'S GREATEST QUALITY TO ME, HOWEVER, WAS THAT HE WAS INCREDIBLY INTERESTING. IN A WORLD OF FUNGIBLE PEOPLE, JIM WAS INCREDIBLY UNIQUE. HE WAS INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING: LITERATURE, POETRY, HISTORY, AND POLITICS, AND HAD THE IRISH LOVE OF TALKING ABOUT ALL OF THOSE SUBJECTS WITH THE ABSOLUTE CONVICTION THAT HIS OPINION WAS RIGHT ABOUT ALL OF IT.

BUT JIMMY'S GREATEST LOVE WAS FOR HIS FAMILY. JIM WAS HOPELESSLY AND COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO HIS WIFE, DANA, TO WHOM HE WAS MARRIED FOR 25 YEARS. HE WAS A SHAMELESS ROMANTIC AND CONTINUED TO WOO DANA THROUGHOUT THEIR MARRIAGE. JIM HAD ALSO IDEALIZED HIS FIVE CHILDREN: ZACH, RILEY, CONNOR, SAM, AND CARSON, AND SHAMELESSLY BRAGGED ON THEM.

THE BAR HAS LOST A GREAT LAWYER. THE AVERAGE, EVERYDAY MIDDLE CLASS CITIZEN OF SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND TENNESSEE HAVE LOST A GREAT ADVOCATE. AND I HAVE LOST A DEAR FRIEND, WHO, TO ME, PERSONIFIED THE FINAL LINES IN TENNYSON'S ULYSSES, TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND, AND NOT TO YIELD. THANK YOU.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU, MR. VON KELLER.
NEXT, WE WILL HEAR FROM THE SENATOR FROM KERSHAW COUNTY, MR.
VINCENT SHEHEEN, WHO WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF JULIAN SELLERS.

MR. SHEHEEN: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: YES, SIR.

MR. SHEHEEN: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I MET JULIAN SELLERS IN
THE COURTROOM. THAT'S WHERE JULIAN LIKED TO BE. MAGISTRATE'S COURT,
FAMILY COURT, CIRCUIT COURT, HE LIKED TO BE IN COURT. HE LOVED BEING A
LAWYER. HE ENJOYED BEING AROUND LAWYERS. AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO
KNEW JULIAN, YOU KNOW HE LIKED TO FIGHT WITH LAWYERS. HE EVEN HAD
THE AUDACITY TO MARRY A LAWYER.

I'M THANKFUL THAT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A LAWYER
OPPOSING JULIAN, AND I'M THANKFUL THAT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OVER THE
LAST TEN YEARS TO BE HIS LAWYER, WORKING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH HIM AND
WITH HIS WIFE ON MANY ISSUES THAT HE LOVED.

JULIAN'S WIFE, JULIA, ASKED IF I WOULD SHARE A FEW REMEMBRANCES
OF HER HUSBAND, AN HONOR THAT SHE FELT BEING THE RECIPIENT OF HIS
LOVE, HIS DEVOTION, AND HIS PROTECTION.

JULIAN AND JULIA HAD FUN PRACTICING LAW TOGETHER. THEY
PRACTICED IN THE U.S. WHEN THEY MET, AND THEN HE WENT WITH HER TO
GERMANY AND PRACTICED IN GERMANY FOR A WHILE. THEY ADDED THIS
PROFESSIONAL RESPECT TO THE RELATIONSHIP THAT THEY SO ENJOYED. TO
MOST PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE COLUMBIA AREA THAT KNEW HIM, KNEW

HIM AS A LAWYER, BUT HE ALSO WAS MORE. JULIAN WAS A 1963 CITADEL GRADUATE WHERE HE DEVELOPED A LIFE-LONG BOND WITH THE MEN OF M COMPANY. HE WAS PROUD OF THAT. HE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE AIR FORCE, FLYING OVER 240 MISSIONS IN VIET NAM. HE WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, BUT YOU NEVER HEARD HIM TALK ABOUT IT. HE CONTINUED TO HAVE LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS AND WITH HIS NAVIGATOR. HE WAS QUIETLY PROUD OF HIS SERVICE AND RIGHTFULLY SO. AS A LAWYER, I FOUND JULIAN TO PERSONIFY THE LAWYER'S OATH IN TRUST, IN HONOR, IN FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY. AND HE WAS IN MANY WAYS THE PEOPLES' LAWYER. HE'D TAKE ON A CASE THAT DIDN'T PAY MUCH. HE'D TAKE ON THE TOUGH, THE COMPLEX, AND THE UNPOPULAR CASE TO HELP SOMEBODY THAT COULDN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR HELP. HE REPRESENTED THE LITTLE GUY AND HE REPRESENTED THE BIG GUY BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT LAWYERS WERE SUPPOSED TO DO. JULIAN WAS ALSO A LAWYER'S LAWYER. HE WAS CONFIDENT; HE WAS INCREDIBLY HARD WORKING ON HIS CASES; HE WAS RESPECTED BY HIS COLLEAGUES AND THE JUDGES HE APPEARED BEFORE. THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, JULIAN CONTINUED TO RESEARCH AND STUDY AND WORK AND HE WAS EFFECTIVE AND HE WAS TOUGH AS AN OPPONENT. BUT HE ALSO WILLINGLY AND GRACIOUSLY HELPED OTHER LAWYERS WHEN THEY NEEDED HELP. WHEN HE MADE A REPRESENTATION IN COURT, THE BENCH AND THE LAWYERS KNEW THAT HE MEANT IT. WITH HIS TRIAL SKILLS, HE TACKLED UNIQUE CASES, SOMETIMES THAT TOOK UNIQUE APPROACHES. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE'S THE ONLY

LAWYER I KNOW WHO'S ACTUALLY HAD A JURY TRIAL IN PROBATE COURT IN RICHLAND COUNTY, WHICH HE WON. THERE WASN'T ANY BACKDOWN IN JULIAN, HE DIDN'T SETTLE CASES JUST TO SETTLE CASES.

ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, HE WAS A COMPLETE MAN, A FIGHTER WHEN NEEDED, A GENTLEMAN WHEN DESERVED.

WHEN JULIAN FIRST CALLED ME AND ASKED ME IF I WOULD BE HIS LAWYER IN A DISPUTE HE HAD, I SAID WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME AND ASKING ME TO BE YOUR LAWYER. HE SAID, BECAUSE YOU BEAT ME IN COURT. I THOUGHT THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD REASON. JULIAN HAD THIS QUIRKY AND FUNNY SIDE TO HIM. WHEN WE HAD TRIALS TOGETHER, WE'D GO TO LUNCH DURING BREAK AND I WOULD EAT, BECAUSE I LIKE TO EAT, AND HE WOULD DRINK WATER. AFTER TWO OR THREE TIMES OF THIS, AND THESE PUZZLED LOOKS I'D GIVE HIM, HE SAID TO ME, YOU CAN'T REALLY FIGHT ON A FULL STOMACH. SO I'VE BEEN A LEAN AND MEAN TRIAL LAWYER EVER SINCE.

THE LAST TRIAL I HAD WITH JULIAN, WE WERE SUING A NEIGHBOR FOR BLOCKING AN EASEMENT AND JULIAN SAID I NEED TO ASK FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES. AND I SAID, JULIAN, NO JURY IN THE WORLD IS GONNA GIVE PUNITIVE DAMAGES ON A DISPUTE ABOUT LAND. HE SAID ASK FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES. SURE ENOUGH, THE JURY AWARDED PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

ANOTHER LAWYER WHO KNEW HIM FOR OVER 40 YEARS SAID THIS ABOUT HIM, JULIAN WAS TOO RIGHT TO HAVE PASSED ON. AND I'LL REMEMBER JULIAN AS A MAN WHO WAS COMMITTED TO THE LAW AND THE PROFESSION, WAS COMMITTED TO HIS COUNTRY, A VETERAN, BUT ALSO WAS INCREDIBLY LOVING

AND GENTLE HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE. JULIAN WAS JUST PROUD TO BE A LAWYER. AND HE WAS PROUD TO BE A MAN. THANK YOU.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU, MR. SHEHEEN. AND LAST, WE WILL HEAR FROM ALEX POSTIC. AND MR. POSTIC WILL BE HONORING THE LIFE OF KEVIN HAYNE SITNICK.

MR. POSTIC: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

ON MONDAY, WHEN I FIRST STARTED WORKING ON THIS MEMORIAL, I WAS REMINDED ON FACEBOOK THAT IT WAS KEVIN'S 47TH BIRTHDAY. I WENT THROUGH HIS PROFILE PAGE; I LOOKED AT HIS PICTURES; I READ WHERE HE HAD BEEN; WHERE HE CHECKED IN; READ STUFF THAT HE, YOU KNOW, POSTED. IT WAS UNSURPRISING TO ME THAT KEVIN -- THAT HIS FACEBOOK PAGE WAS FULL OF HIS FAMILY: HIS WIFE, LEE, HE WAS MARRIED TO FOR 17 YEARS; AND HIS DAUGHTER, EMMY; AND HIS SON, THOMAS. THERE WAS NOTHING ABOUT BEING A LAWYER; NO BRAGGING. IT WAS JUST FAMILY FOR A MOMENT, AND THAT WAS UNSURPRISING.

I MET HIM IN THE EARLY 1990S. HE HAD GONE TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND HAD LEFT AND COME TO USC, TRANSFERRED TO USC. AND I COULD HAVE EASILY PICKED OUT, HE WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAT. HE WOULD -- HE WAS REALLY INTENSE. HE WAS INTELLIGENT. HE WOULD GO ON FOR HOURS. HE'D CORNER YOU ABOUT PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, OR ABOUT ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN, WHO WE WENT TO GO SEE ONCE IN ATLANTA TOGETHER. IT WAS EXHAUSTING, FRANKLY, TO TALK TO HIM. SO IT WAS A GOOD KIND OF EXHAUSTING. YOU'D BE DRAINED, BUT YOU FELT SMARTER.

AFTER COLLEGE, IT TOOK HIM A FEW YEARS TO FIND THE LAW. HE WENT INTO THE ARMY; HE TRAINED IN LINGUISTICS. HE WAS -- HE WAS ACTUALLY FLUENT IN SERBO-CROATIAN AFTER ONLY A YEAR OF STUDYING IT. THIS WAS THE 1990S, SO IT WAS IMPORTANT. HE WAS TRAINED TO BE AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE INTERROGATOR. IT WAS A FAMILY JOKE THAT HE COULD TELL IF FAMILY WAS LYING BECAUSE HE WAS IN ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

AT SOME POINT IN THE LATE 1990S, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ARMY AND COME TO COLUMBIA AND MARRY LEE, WHO WAS PART OF OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BACK AT USC, AND GO TO USC LAW SCHOOL. AND HE FOUND SOMETHING NEW TO BE INTENSELY PASSIONATE ABOUT. WHILE IN LAW SCHOOL, HE CLERKED FOR JIM ANDERS & ASSOCIATES. AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE WAS THE ONLY LAW CLERK TO GET A JOB THERE AFTER GRADUATING. WHEN I SPOKE TO JOHNNY FELDER THIS WEEK ABOUT KEVIN, HE SAID THAT HIRING HIM WAS A NO-BRAINER. HE WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAT. HE NEVER KNEW ANYBODY THAT HAD A GREATER THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX ACUMEN LIKE KEVIN. THAT IS PART OF A COMMON DESCRIPTION THAT I GOT TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT KEVIN. HE WAS CREATIVE. HE WAS CLEVER. HE WAS INTELLIGENT. HE WAS LOYAL. HE WAS TENACIOUS. HE ENDED UP, HE HAD HE LEFT ANDERS AND JOINED JOHNNY IN MCGOWAN HOOD & FELDER.

AND IT WAS DURING THAT TIME THAT HE MOONLIGHTED AS A CITY OF CAYCE PROSECUTOR. AND I CAN TELL YOU FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE, HE WAS PRETTY GOOD IN THE COURTROOM. THIS WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE FOR ONE OF MY CLIENTS ONCE. I CAN STILL SEE THE JURY NODDING, SAYING --

WHEN HE'S TALKING ABOUT IT'S THE DEVIL IN THE DETAILS. IT'S THE DEVIL IN THE DETAILS.

I SPOKE TO ERNIE PEAGLER, HE WAS ANOTHER ASSOCIATE AT MCGOWAN HOOD WHO WAS MOONLIGHTING AT THE CITY OF CAYCE AS A CITY OF CAYCE PROSECUTOR. MOONLIGHTING WAS NIGHT COURT IN CAYCE. WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT KEVIN. HE GAVE ME A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT KEVIN. A LOT ABOUT HOW TENACIOUS HE WAS, HOW INTELLIGENT HE WAS, HIS IMAGINATION. KEVIN WOULD TAKE A LEGAL ISSUE AND WOULD JUST DECONSTRUCT IT UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT EXCEPT THE WAY HE SAW IT. WHAT STICKS WITH ME, THOUGH, IS WHAT ERNIE TOLD ME. ERNIE TOLD ME THAT KEVIN HAD THE STRONGEST MORAL COMPASS OF ANY LAWYER HE'D EVER MET AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE QUIT BEING A PROSECUTOR. I'm JOKING. I WAS SO PROUD OF HIM.

SO, HE LEFT MCGOWAN HOOD & FELDER AND HE TRIED HIS HAND AT SOLO PRACTICE IN LEXINGTON FOR A FEW YEARS, AND THEN HE JOINED ROGERS LEWIS JACKSON MANN & QUINN. AND I SPOKE TO JENKINS, JENKINS MANN ABOUT HIS WORK THERE, AND HE SAID -- WE HAD A NICE CHAT AGAIN ABOUT KEVIN, REMINISCING ABOUT OUR FRIEND. AND HE SAID THERE'S JUST NO GREATER DRAFTSMAN THAT HE'S EVER HIRED. AGAIN, SAYING JUST A PHENOMENAL MEMORY FOR THE LAW, JUST UNBELIEVABLE.

WELL, I WANT TO THANK Y'ALL, THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR MY FRIEND, KEVIN. I LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM. WE USED TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

WE WOULD BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER. I'M SORRY. I WILL MISS HIS INTELLIGENCE AND I WILL MISS THAT LOUSY SENSE OF HUMOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. POSTIC. MR. MCKENZIE, ANY FURTHER COMMENTS AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY BAR?

MR. MCKENZIE: NO, SIR, YOUR HONOR.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. HOOD: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ON BEHALF OF THE JUDICIARY AND MEMBERS OF THE BAR, TO THOSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO WE HAVE LOST THIS LAST YEAR AND TO THEIR FAMILIES, WE ARE SO SAD THAT WE HAVE LOST THESE GOOD PEOPLE AND WE ARE GLAD THAT WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THEM, TO KNOW THEM, AND WE WILL REMEMBER THEM AS THEY WERE. SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT A LONG LIFE MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH, BUT A GOOD LIFE IS ALWAYS LONG ENOUGH. AND WE'VE HAD EXAMPLES TODAY OF GOOD AND LONG LIVES. AND AS YOU LEAVE HERE TODAY, I HOPE YOU ALWAYS THINK OF THOSE WHO WE HONORED WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND GLADNESS IN YOUR HEARTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE TODAY. THERE IS A RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM ON THIS FLOOR. WE INVITE YOU ALL TO COME TOGETHER AND FELLOWSHIP WITH US AND WE WISH YOU THE BEST.

COURT IS NOW IN RECESS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

