

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

M E M O R I A L S E R V I C E S

f o r

PAUL J. HEFFERON

HON. WILLIAM H. McGRATH

NELSON N. WILLIAMS, JR.

EDWARD N. EVERETT

Friday, November 15, 1985

JOHN C. SPEAR
Official Court Reporter
P.O. Box 401
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(The court convened en banc at 3:00 o'clock p.m., there being present HONORABLE WILLIAM H. McCULLOUGH, Administrative Judge, and HONORABLE ALBERT T. BLACKWELL, JR., ROBERT H. MASON, AUDREY E. MELBOURNE, DAVID GRAY ROSS, G.R. HOVEY JOHNSON, and JOSEPH S. CASULA, Associate Judges.)

MR. EDWARD P. CAMUS: Your Honors, may it please the Court, this afternoon we have our memorial service.

The program itself will be handled in completion by Mr. Edwin Hutchinson, who for many years has been the chairman of this particular committee.

Therefore, I now call upon Mr. Hutchinson to step forward and present those matters before the Court now.

MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Judge McCullough, Associates Judges of the Prince George's County Circuit Court, Judges of the District Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, Mr. President, families and friends of the attorneys who are being honored here today, members of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

It is a tradition of this Court and this Bar Association to join together to pay tribute to our friends and fellow members of this Bar, who have departed this life since we last met in November of 1984 for a similar program.

1 We will now take a little while to briefly review
2 the time when these men were with us in the practice of law,
3 in social events, and in the trial of cases before this
4 Court and other Courts in this County and this State.

5 The Attorneys we are honoring here today are
6 Attorney Paul J. Hefferon, Judge William H. McGrath,
7 Attorney Nelson N. Williams, Jr., and Attorney Edward N.
8 Everett.

9 Your Honors, it is my pleasure at this time to
10 present Paul D. Murphy, who will speak to us regarding Paul
11 J. Hefferon.

12 PAUL J. HEFFERON

13 MR. PAUL D. MURPHY: Judge McCullough, Honorable
14 Judges of the Circuit Court, the Honorable Judges of the
15 District Court.

16 In 1955 when I left the United States Air Force
17 I was hired as an insurance adjuster for the Charles E. Wilson
18 Company, who was representing United Services Automobile
19 Association. Paul Hefferon hired me in July of 1955. That
20 is when I first got to know Paul.

21 Paul was born in Piston, Pennsylvania on April 11,
22 1923.

23 He received his education in the public schools
24 up there winning a football scholarship to the University of
25 Connecticut in 1940. He remained there until 1942 when he went

1 into the United States Army.

2 He remained in the Army from 1942-to-1946. He
3 rose to a rank of captain in the infantry, and he was also
4 wounded in Belgium requiring him to remain four months in the
5 military hospital in England.

6 Before he left the service he was granted the
7 Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and other citations while
8 he was in the Army.

9 He returned here and resumed his education at
10 the University of Scranton, graduating in 1948.

11 Mr. Hefferon met a beautiful Irish girl from
12 Pennsylvania named Jean Callahan, and they subsequently
13 married on April 4th, 1948.

14 At this time I would like to present Mrs.
15 Hefferon to the Court. Mrs. Hefferon, would you please rise?

16 As a result of that marriage four children were
17 born, Paul, Jr., Kevin, Lizann and Sean, who are present
18 today. I wish to present them to the Court. Would you
19 please rise?

20 Paul left the University of Scranton graduating
21 with a B.S. degree in business and attended Dickinson Law
22 School where he received his J.D. and moved to the Washington
23 area.

24 He moved to Clinton in approximately 1954, where
25 he has always lived.

1 Mr. Hefferon was a member of this Bar Association,
2 the Prince George's Bar Association, the District of Columbia
3 Bar Association.

4 He was also at Charles E. Wilson, a member of
5 that firm.

6 When he left them in 1969 he went with the
7 Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission, at which time he
8 went there as an attorney, and rose to General Counsel, and
9 he remained there until he died as General Counsel.

10 Mr. Hefferon was quite a unique person. When you
11 met him you automatically felt warmth flow from him. He
12 could get people to work together and to mend a lot of fences.

13 He also extended his hand to many an attorney
14 that needed help. Some attorneys are very grateful to him
15 for he literally saved their careers.

16 Paul also had many friends, two of them are
17 present, Harry Daugherty and Bill Higgins, they had a
18 Saturday morning breakfast club. Every Saturday morning
19 they would meet and go to Happy Harbour. Happy Harbour is a
20 very unique restaurant. Judge Nolan has been there before.

21 They would rub elbows with the elite, such as
22 a champion muskrat skinner, champion oyster eater, and the
23 champion snail eater. Don't ask me what they had for
24 breakfast, I wouldn't want to know.

25 There were some adjusters that worked for him,

1 Charles Kittredge and Ed Mullaney. We were all very fond of
2 him, who we called Hef. We all remained friends in the early
3 '50s on.

4 I feel that Mr. Hefferon was a family man, a good
5 lawyer, a good leader, and he always had a saying, "You can't
6 win them all".

7 I feel that whoever met Mr. Hefferon won something
8 by just knowing him. He was a warm man, a true man.

9 I would like to present these words to the Court.
10 Thank you.

11 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. Murphy.

12 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honors, I move that
13 these remarks be made a permanent record of this court and
14 a copy of same made available to the family of Mr. Hefferon.

15 The next one to be honored is William H. McGrath.
16 I will ask Honorable Jacob Levin to speak to the Court
17 regarding him.

18 HONORABLE WILLIAM H. McGRATH

19 HONORABLE JACOB S. LEVIN: If it please the
20 Court, the Honorable William H. McGrath died at the age of
21 86 after having had a long and distinguished career as a
22 public servant.

23 Bill was a graduate of the George Washington
24 University School of Law.

25 He served as an officer in both World Wars. He

1 was a member of the Marine Corps thereafter for a short
2 period of time.

3 He served on the Metropolitan Police Department,
4 was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of
5 Columbia, was the lawyer for our Zoning Board and our Liquor
6 Appeals Board.

7 He was a charter member of the Seat Pleasant
8 Lions Club, and a member of the American Legion, and a veteran
9 and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

10 But it was as the Chief Judge for 12 years of the
11 predecessor of our now District Court, that is as it was then
12 known, Chief Judge of the Peoples Court that we as lawyers
13 and a Bar Association all came to know and love him as a
14 person.

15 He dispensed justice always with a pleasing wisdom
16 that he had acquired by way of education and experience,
17 and with a compassion that all litigants who came before, who
18 come before the Bar deserve.

19 We will never forget him, and we will always
20 cherish the association that we had with him as a lawyer,
21 as a Judge, and above all as a warm, caring and a wonderful
22 individual.

23 I respectfully request this Court that we adjourn
24 these proceedings in memory of the late Honorable William
25 H. McGrath, and that these remarks be spread upon the minutes

1 of this court.

2 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Judge Levin.

3 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honor, Attorney
4 Joseph De Paul will now speak also regarding Judge McGrath.

5 MR. JOSEPH De RAUL: Your Honors and ladies and
6 gentlemen. I came to know Bill McGrath as a lawyer before
7 I appeared before him as a Judge. He left a very strong
8 impression on me, a devotion to duty and dedication to his
9 work.

10 Mostly he impressed me as being a professional
11 who was interested in representing people and helping them.
12 He carried that with him throughout the years that he served
13 as a lawyer, as well as the years that he served on the
14 Bench.

15 He felt that we were here to serve, and we were
16 privileged to have the license to practice law, and he felt
17 that there was a message there for all of us that we ought to
18 give just a little bit more than just the ordinary effort on
19 behalf of our clients.

20 He felt we were in a position where we could help
21 and we should do so without someone telling us that it needed
22 a little extra drive, a half hour's work, that it was part of
23 our responsibility.

24 That made quite an impression on me, and I
25 frankly try to pass it on to all those that I have come into

1 contact with over the years.

2 I was also equally impressed by his devotion to
3 duty and his awareness of his responsibilities as a Judge.

4 He had certain things that you could do in his
5 courtroom, certain things that you could not do. It was
6 always done with an eye towards expediting the docket, or
7 servicing the people, and remembering that those people who
8 came into his courtroom might be having their one exposure
9 to court, and that one exposure to the judicial system, and
10 that they had a right to be heard and they had a right to be
11 treated with fairness and kindness.

12 As Your Honors know, and most of you all know
13 he was not a soft man, he was not an easy man. He was neither
14 prone to listen to lengthy arguments, nor was he to hand out
15 lengthy sentences. He was more interested in doing the right
16 thing for the people that appeared before him.

17 Sometimes if you were someone he knew you could
18 tell how you were doing in front of him by whether or not he
19 addressed you as Captain or Sergeant. When he called me
20 Sergeant I was in pretty good shape. When he called me
21 Captain, I tried to remind him I had only been a PFC. in the
22 war and I didn't have any rank.

23 In any event, Judge McGrath was always very
24 careful in the way he handled the people in his courtroom,
25 and he left us with the impression, all of us who participated

1 in the activities in his court, that these things were
2 important, whatever it was that was happening affected people,
3 and that they had a right to the best that he and that we
4 could give to ourselves.

5 He was a good man, he was a good soldier, he was
6 a good lawyer, he was a good Judge. All around he was a
7 very good American.

8 I am pleased to be allowed to speak on his behalf.

9 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. De Paul.

10 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honors, I move that
11 these remarks be spread upon the records of the court and
12 a copy of same sent to the family of Judge McGrath.

13 I would now like to introduce to the Court
14 Elvira White, an attorney from the Public Defender's Office,
15 who will speak to us regarding Edward Everett.

16 EDWARD N. EVERETT

17 MS. ELVIRA WHITE: Good afternoon, distinguished
18 members of the Bench, colleagues and friends. I am here today
19 to present some remarks in memory of Edward Nathan "Skip"
20 Everett.

21 It is difficult to remember him in sadness,
22 especially this room, because it was just here last summer
23 that I delivered a presentation at the investiture of the
24 Honorable William Missouri.

25 Skip sat there smiling, encouraging me because he

1 knew I was just an absolute nervous wreck. He held my hand
2 before I came in here and encouraged me as I sat out there
3 because he knew that I wanted to do the best job I could at
4 that investiture.

5 I am here today to pay tribute to a deceased
6 colleague and a very dear friend. Skip, as we called him,
7 always called him, and it is not with sadness but with
8 fond memories that all of us remember him.

9 I first came to know Skip as a member of the
10 class of 1978 at the University of Maryland Law School.
11 There he distinguished himself as a friendly, outgoing class-
12 mate who enjoyed a vigorous argument or a lively discussion
13 on almost any subject.

14 Back in those days he was the regional director
15 of BALSAs, Black American Law Student Association, and he
16 traveled widely encouraging the full participation of the
17 minorities in the legal community.

18 More recently he was an active member of many
19 professional associations, particularly the J. Franklin
20 Bourne Bar Association, the Prince George's County Bar
21 Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, and the
22 Kiwanis Club here in the community.

23 Skip, as he was affectionately known, would
24 have turned 34 years old last Wednesday, November the 6th.
25 His sudden departure on September 29th of this year left a

1 void in our closely knit legal community where he served as
2 first a private practitioner, and later after poor health
3 forced him to curtail his practice, he became a dedicated
4 panel Public Defender and worked diligently all the time
5 even though he was in frail condition.

6 But to know Skip and talk to him daily, none
7 of us would have noticed the physical heart condition that
8 would have plagued him most of his life.

9 Skip suffered from this heart condition since the
10 age of three, and no one ever thought that he would reach
11 adulthood, so that was a miracle in itself. Each day that he
12 lived he considered that a great joy and a great honor.

13 So committed to our profession and its high
14 standards that in his last days he devoted himself to helping
15 newly sworn lawyers, to assisting colleagues in private
16 practice, and to securing the financial future of his only
17 child, Alesta Noreen Everett, who is three years old.

18 In his memory we will continue dedicating our
19 energies to the legal profession, and we have taken steps
20 to see that Alesta's future is assured as Skip would have
21 wanted us to do.

22 I am privileged to have known him and we will
23 miss the joy that he shared with us each day of his short
24 life.

25 I would like to present at the defense table a

1 gift where Skip would have spent most of his joyful days.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Ms. White.

4 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much.

5 I would move that these remarks also be made part of the
6 permanent record of the court, and a copy of same given to the
7 family of Mr. Edward N. Everett.

8 The next attorney we are speaking about was
9 Nelson N. Williams, Jr., and I would like to introduce to the
10 Court William J. Kenney, member of the D.C. Bar, who will
11 speak to us regarding this gentleman.

12 NELSON N. WILLIAMS, JR.

13 MR. WILLIAM J. KENNEY: Honorable Judges, members
14 of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

15 I am flattered to join with the members of the
16 Prince George's County Bar Association and the families and
17 friends in this memorial service for the recently deceased
18 members.

19 To the families please accept my deepest
20 condolences. I hope our participation will help the families
21 in understanding the service their loved one contributed to
22 this community, and to the Bar, and the honor and respect we
23 hold of their memory.

24 I particularly want to salute the memory of a
25 close friend and member of my family, Colonel Nelson N. Williams.

1 Nelson's wife and family, his brother and his
2 sisters in law have joined us today for this memorial service,
3 and have asked me to convey their thanks and respect to all.

4 Forgive me if I now and again refer to Nelson as
5 Bill, as I have always known him as Bill.

6 Nelson died a few months shy of his 57th birthday,
7 on February 3rd, 1985.

8 Born May 13th, 1928 in Murray, Kentucky, to two
9 uniquely strong and good people. His mother, Elsie Boggess
10 Williams was a school teacher, and continues to guide the
11 family with love and determination.

12 His father, Noah Williams, was a hard working,
13 God-loving man. A machinist by trade, a father by avocation.
14 He died about a year prior to Nelson's death.

15 Nelson had two brothers, Tom and Don, both of
16 whom were -- and I'm sure are very close to him.

17 Don died in October, 1984, following a painful
18 illness of lung and brain cancer.

19 Nelson was the epitome of rural American success.
20 He started school in a one-room school in Murray, Kentucky,
21 and while the depression caused detours to Detroit, Michigan,
22 he ultimately graduated as one of 13 in the graduating class
23 from Kirskey, Kentucky. Not yet 16, Nelson enrolled as a
24 pre-med student at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

25 Following graduation in 1949, Bill taught biology

1 and science in the Kiwanee, Missouri High School, doubling as
2 a school bus driver, all to get the money to fulfill his
3 ambition of going to medical school and becoming a doctor.
4 Like so many of our dreams, war intervened.

5 With the start of the Korean War, Nelson enlisted
6 in the United States Air Force as an aviation cadet.

7 Following commissioning and graduation from
8 Flight School, Nelson served with distinction as a Jet Fighter
9 pilot in Korea.

10 Incidentally, the Williams were well represented
11 in Korea as all three brothers were there at the same time.

12 Nelson flew 98 missions, earned the Distinguished
13 Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal, with numerous
14 clusters, and emerged a dedicated, Career Officer.

15 Fate transferred him to Westerner Air Force Base
16 in Chicopee, Massachusetts in 1953, where he met, wooed, and
17 in 1954 married a local French-Canadian girl, Ruth Lafleur.
18 Ruth, incidentally, is my wife's first cousin.

19 Ruth was the ideal compliment of Bill. She
20 shared his sense of humor, his fun loving ways, and his
21 dreams.

22 Together they have given us a great heritage.
23 Their family, all of whom are with us today: The twins,
24 Kathy Williams, Nicky Williams Rocco, here with her husband
25 and Bill's light of his world, his grand-daughter, and

1 Don Williams, Liz Williams, and Latty Williams.

2 As his family grew, Bill found the transfers of
3 military life disruptive of his family life. First
4 transferred to Washington in 1964, Bill found a home. His
5 family stayed here during his tour in Vietnam; and, upon his
6 return, Bill's thoughts were to a second career. While on
7 active duty with the Air Force he attended the University of
8 Baltimore Law School.

9 Following his graduation and admission to the
10 Bar in 1978, Bill opened his practice as a solo practitioner
11 here in Fort Washington, and maintained that practice til
12 his death.

13 With his contacts and his military grade he could
14 have easily sought a corporate practice and the comfort of
15 a lobbying career. Bill elected instead to seek out the lonely
16 and the poor of Fort Washington.

17 As someone who has sampled his practice I can
18 speak with some real testimony Bill may have cut the corners
19 of the books, but he never cut the corner of his heart.
20 His dedication to his clients and their love for him is a
21 unique witness and a unique testimony to the Bar.

22 I was privileged to spend the afternoon of his
23 unexpected death with him. He talked of his family and of
24 the great sense of love and pride each of his children have
25 given him in their individual ways.

1 We talked of his practice; Two cases needed
2 immediate attention, and his illness and hospitalization made
3 it necessary to ask for help.

4 We talked of his dreams. He still harbored
5 the dream of medical school. But, he was anxious that his
6 planned program for Rehabilitation of Alcohol and other
7 abuse offenders keep moving.

8 I am particularly pleased to see that his wife,
9 Ruth, his brother, Tom, and his sister-in-law, Janet, have
10 recently successfully opened the Williams Center to provide
11 counseling, training, education and guidance to alcohol and
12 substance abuse offenders to provide an opportunity of
13 rehabilitation.

14 I ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer
15 in salute to the memory of our brother at the Bar, Colonel
16 Nelson N. Williams, United States Air Force, Retired.
17 A man uniquely gifted by God; a patriot; a fighter; a doer;
18 a dreamer, but above all a patient, giving and loving family
19 man. We mourn his death, but we rejoice in what he gave us
20 all in life.

21 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. Kenney.

22 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you. I move this
23 court that these remarks be made a part of the record of the
24 court and a copy of the same be sent to the family of
25 Nelson Williams.

1 Is June White Dillard here? I would like to
2 introduce to the Court June White Dillard, who will speak
3 also regarding Mr. Nelson Williams.

4 MS. JUNE WHITE DILLARD: To the Honorable Judges
5 of the Court, Members of the Bar, family of Nelson Williams.
6 I am June White Dillard, and I am a very close friend of
7 Nelson Williams.

8 I met him when we were studying for the Bar,
9 which brings lawyers together in a very, very special way.
10 We happened to pass at the same time.

11 That cemented our friendship, after which I moved
12 my office to Prince George's County.

13 He was a close friend, trusted advisor. His
14 door was always open. If you had a problem, if you had some-
15 thing that you needed to discuss, if you needed a confidant.

16 Our friendship continued to grow.

17 I watched his practice grow. He devoted many hours
18 to the people in Fort Washington. He was not concerned about
19 how much they earned, or what class they were in, or what
20 race they were.

21 He was truly a member of the Bar that we would
22 all be very proud of, and I would just like to add my
23 particular thoughts and sympathy in his memory today to the
24 family and to the members of the Bar.

25 We lost a member that gave many things to us.

1 Whenever he was in the courthouse he was always smiling. He
2 always had a friendly word, a joke to share with you, and it
3 was a pleasure to see him.

4 I truly miss him around the courthouse.

5 Thank you.

6 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Ms. Dillard.

7 MR. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you. Your Honors,
8 I move that these remarks be made part of the record of this
9 court and a copy of same be sent to the family of Nelson N.
10 Williams.

11 This concludes the people we are honoring today,
12 and I would like to just make one announcement. These flowers
13 on the table here, counsel table, are for the families of
14 these deceased that we have honored here today, and I would
15 request that some member of the family of each one be
16 responsible to see that they get to the proper people.

17 Your Honor, we are now ready for some remarks
18 from the Court.

19 JUDGE McCULLOUGH: Thank you.

20 Mr. Hutchinson, Chief Judge Loveless asked me to
21 express his regret of not being able to be here to preside
22 at this memorial service. He always felt and still feels
23 that it is an honor to be able to be the presiding judge at
24 this ceremony.

25 However, he is recovering from surgery and it was

1 physically impossible for him to be here today. He asked that
2 I would preside in his stead.

3 All of the judges are very grateful to the
4 Prince George's County Bar Association and the members of the
5 committee on memorials for the presentation of these memorials
6 today and making the arrangements for the ceremony.

7 It is a very fine tradition that we have maintained
8 in Prince George's County for many years, that we pause from
9 the usual adversary matters taking place in the courtroom to
10 honor our departed brothers and pay tribute to their memories.

11 So the Court, all of whose members have enjoyed
12 a very pleasant and warm relationship with those who have
13 been memorialized today, will direct the memorials presented
14 will be spread on the permanent records of the court and
15 that copies will be sent to the families of those colleagues
16 we are honoring today.

17 Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our departed brothers,
18 you may now announce adjournment of this court.

19 (Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m. the memorial service
20 was concluded.)
21
22
23
24
25