

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Memorial Service
For

COPY

Harry C.J. Blair, Esquire
Earl S. Heffner, Jr., Esquire
Edward G. Ruyak, Esquire

Tuesday
October 3, 2006
Courtroom 1

ON THE BENCH:

Hon. Robert A. Freedberg, President Judge, presiding
Hon. William F. Moran, Judge
Hon. F. P. Kimberly McFadden, Judge

SPEAKERS:

Richard P. Kovacs, Esq. NCBA President
Hon. Stephen G. Baratta, Judge
Richard E. Santee, Esq.
Frank S. Poswistillo, Esq.

Proceedings stenographically recorded by Sandra M. Borger,
RPR, Official Court Reporter.

MORNING SESSION

* * *

PRESIDENT JUDGE FREEDBERG: Good morning.

Today we convene for the annual memorial service of the Court of Common Pleas and the Northampton County Bar Association. Today is not a somber day. It is a day when we reflect and reminisce and are grateful for lives well spent at the Bar.

These were three outstanding lawyers whom we remember with a great deal of fondness and respect, and it is appropriate that today is a day when we rejoice in their outstanding contributions to this Court, to the Bar, and to the community.

I recognize the president of the Northampton County Bar Association, Richard Kovacs.

MR. KOVACS: Thank you, Your Honor.

May it please the Court, on behalf of the Northampton County Bar Association, I would like to welcome the family and friends of Harry C.J. Blair, Earl S. Heffner, Jr., and Edward George Ruyak, and all of the Bar Association members here present for our annual memorial service.

I would also like to thank this honorable court for allowing us the opportunity to publicly honor our deceased members during this session of court. As long as I can remember, the Northampton County Bar Association has been a very close-knit organization, and this ceremony has always been a time for our members to show their respect and admiration for those members who are no longer with us.

Although we gather here today to express our deepest sympathy

1 to the families of our deceased members, perhaps more importantly we
2 have come to celebrate their lives and their accomplishments. Harry, Earl,
3 and Ed were not only well-respected and talented attorneys, but they were
4 also pillars of their community, loving husbands, and devoted fathers.

5 All three of these men were not only shining examples of good
6 and successful lawyers, but just as importantly, they were good and
7 successful human beings. Now, many people have many ways of looking at
8 what success is. I'd like to borrow words from Ralph Waldo Emerson,
9 which I took from the funeral card at Harry Blair's funeral, and I'd like to
10 share those with you.

11 "To laugh on and much, to win the respect of intelligent people
12 and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and
13 endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty and to find the
14 best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a
15 garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know even one life has
16 breathed easier because you lived, this is to have succeeded."

17 All three of these men, ladies and gentlemen, were very truly
18 successful in every aspect of their lives, and we are very fortunate that our
19 lives have been made better by theirs.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture I would like to introduce
21 The Honorable Stephen Baratta who will speak on behalf of Harry C.J.
22 Blair.

23 JUDGE BARATTA: Thank you, Mr. Kovacs.

24 And may it please the Court, after a lengthy battle with cancer
25 on January 3rd, 2006, Attorney Harry C.J. Blair died prematurely at the age

1 of 65. At the time of his death, Harry Blair had been married to his lovely
2 wife, Susan, for nearly 35 years. Harry and Susan had a blended family
3 totaling eight children, 15 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

4 Harry was born in northeast Philadelphia, was raised there, and
5 Harry's father, Henry, was a banker by profession. Harry was ivy league
6 educated. In 1961 he graduated Cum Laude from the University of
7 Pennsylvania with a degree in electrical engineering. After college, Harry
8 began his engineering career working at General Electric in their space
9 division. There are not many people who can claim that their first job was
10 as a rocket scientist.

11 Harry worked at GE for five years. While at GE, he earned his
12 masters degree in electrical engineering. Then in 1965 Harry changed jobs
13 and began working at Dynasciences where he rose through the ranks to
14 become the director of engineering and the director of marketing.

15 In 1974 Harry decided that he would pursue the study of law at
16 Temple University. He attended night classes while he worked during the
17 days supporting his family. When Harry graduated from law school in
18 1977, Harry and Susan brought their family to Northampton County
19 because Harry's first legal job was his appointment as a law clerk to Judge
20 Clinton Budd Palmer. Soon thereafter, the Blairs bought a farm with an
21 old farmhouse outside of Bangor.

22 Now, Harry was the first law clerk hired by the Northampton
23 County judiciary. One would have to assume that Harry performed his
24 duties and responsibilities rather well because when his clerkship was
25 completed, Harry was appointed by Judge Palmer to be Northampton

1 County's first special master handling very sensitive family law matters,
2 including cases involving abused and neglected children and child custody
3 cases involving the disintegration of families. In these cases Harry would
4 act as a judge. He would hear testimony and render decisions with
5 proposed orders of court to be approved by a judge.

6 In 1988 Harry's masterships were expanded to include equitable
7 distribution, which involved the division of assets between divorcing
8 parties. Unfortunately, in September of 2003 Harry retired from these
9 masterships when he was diagnosed with cancer. Now, Harry was known
10 as a workhorse for the Northampton County judiciary. For many years
11 every hearing that involved neglected and abused children, every custody
12 dispute, and every contested divorce case was touched by Harry Blair.

13 Harry was well-known for his diligent preparation for each case,
14 his legal acumen, his prodigious memory, and his love for children. Having
15 Harry Blair as your master, much of Northampton County family law work
16 was done by one man. Harry was an institution unto himself. Today, we
17 have five different masters that share the work that Harry used to do by
18 himself.

19 Now, besides his public service as a master, Harry also
20 maintained an active private practice on his farm. In this day and age, the
21 term "country lawyer" may be somewhat archaic because it describes a type
22 of legal practice not often seen today. A country lawyer is an attorney who
23 primarily performs every type of legal service that is needed by members of
24 his immediate community.

25 The clients of a country lawyer are people who live a simpler,

1 uncomplicated, and perhaps more grounded way of life. As a general
2 practice that includes wills, real estate transactions, municipal work,
3 criminal, general civil matters, and family law. In his practice, as well as in
4 his private life, Harry easily fit the definition of a country lawyer. In fact,
5 Harry actually maintained his private office in the country on his farm.

6 Now, despite the demanding responsibilities of his masterships
7 and his legal practice, Harry was also a full-time farmer. The Blair farm was
8 always an active farm where Harry and Susan grew their own food,
9 including vegetables, fruit, chickens, and sheep. She also canned their own
10 food.

11 As an aside, I always found this somewhat ironic that for
12 someone who grew his own food, that Harry's courthouse lunches usually
13 consisted of a cup of coffee and those little orange peanut butter crackers
14 he got from the vending machine. One would expect a farmer to eat a
15 more substantial, healthier lunch.

16 When I spoke with Susan in preparation for this eulogy, she
17 relayed to me that she always believed that Harry was happiest when he was
18 out riding his tractor in their fields. She also said that it wasn't unusual for
19 Harry to see his clients when he was out working his farm. There were
20 many times when Harry would drive his tractor up to the house, climb
21 down, go into his office wearing his plaid shirt and jeans, and see a client.

22 Now, Harry's talents didn't end with electrical engineering, law,
23 and farming. Harry also built outbuildings, such as a chicken coop,
24 excavated ponds, renovated his farmhouse. Harry did all his own
25 plumbing, electrical, and construction work. He also did much of his own

1 car repair and maintenance, which really wasn't hard to believe, if you
2 happened to see him driving that old, usually green-colored dodge vehicle
3 that was like a hybird between a Jeep and a truck. He kept that thing
4 running long past its life expectancy.

5 Now, if Harry didn't know how to do any project, he got a
6 book, and he learned about it. And he learned to do it himself. One
7 example is that Harry taught himself about computers and software. Harry
8 was the first person that I ever saw successfully use voice-activated
9 software. Harry used it to generate his custody orders when he was
10 working here at the courthouse.

11 As I said before, I did get a chance to speak to Susan about
12 Harry's family and personal life before I drafted this eulogy. In our
13 discussions, the words Susan used to describe Harry included brilliant,
14 loving, caring, responsible, inquisitive, generous, grounded, stable, focused,
15 and spiritual. Susan was amazed by Harry's memory and his continuing
16 quest to learn new and different things.

17 As I listened to Susan as she related stories about Harry and his
18 many accomplishments, she referenced several times the spiritual
19 component of his life. When Susan discussed Harry's spirituality, it wasn't
20 in an organized, religious way. It was in relation to Harry's duties and
21 responsibilities in this world. Harry continually assessed what he was doing
22 and how it affected others. Harry was a very complex and private person.
23 He was humble, he did not brag, and he did not seek public acclaim.

24 Harry loved and supported his family. He also treated others
25 fairly, with dignity and respect, and he had respect for earth and nature.

1 Final, Harry had that insatiable desire to continue to learn, to grow as a
2 person, and to try new things. The term "Renaissance man" is used to
3 define highly cultivated men who are well-versed and skilled in many fields
4 in both knowledge and work. Harry C.J. Blair was certainly a Renaissance
5 man, and he was a remarkable person.

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE FREEDBERG: Thank you, Judge.
7 Well done.

8 The Court recognizes Richard E. Santee, Jr., who will eulogize
9 Earl F. Heffner, Jr.

10 Mr. Santee.

11 MR. SANTEE: May it please the Court, honored guests,
12 friends and family, members of the Bar, it is with a deep sense of loss and
13 regret that I report the untimely death of Earl S. Heffner, Jr., on August
14 4th, 2006, and I request leave to offer some remarks and present an
15 appropriate resolution on behalf of the Northampton County Bar
16 Association.

17 Earl S. Heffner was born on May 14th, 1928. He attended
18 Hellertown High School and graduated there in 1945. Following
19 graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and remained on active
20 duty until 1949. He remained active in the U.S. Army Reserves until his
21 retirement in 1978 after more than 32 years of service attaining the rank of
22 colonel.

23 Upon completing his active duty in 1949, Earl attended
24 Muhlenberg College from which he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1935.
25 He subsequently attended the Dickinson School of Law and Temple

1 University School of Law from which he graduated in 1956 with a juris
2 doctorate degree.

3 Admitted to the Bar of this Court in March of 1957, he
4 maintained an office in Bethlehem for more than 38 years until his
5 retirement in 1995 when he moved to Florida with his wife Kay. Earl had
6 four children: A daughter, Janice Carter, who resides with her husband,
7 Allen, in Lakeland, Florida; and sons, Earl S. Heffner, III, who resides in
8 Coomera, Australia; Scott Gass and his wife Nicole of Raleigh, North
9 Carolina; and Michael Heffner and his wife Karen in Gainesville, Virginia.
10 He had seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

11 Earl's practice consisted primarily of wills, trusts, and estates,
12 along with some commercial and real estate transactional business. For
13 many years, he was a partner in the firm of Kolb, Holland, Antonelli, and
14 Heffner and thereafter, Antonelli and Heffner. For more than 12 years
15 preceding his retirement, Earl maintained a solo practice on Broad Street,
16 Bethlehem, where he served his many estate and real estate clients very ably
17 and with great consideration and care.

18 His long-time secretary, Pricilla Jroski, notes "They don't make
19 them like Earl anymore; he was a true gentleman." She recalls many
20 instances she and Earl would drive to the home of his clients to work with
21 them on estate planning, drafting wills, and generally caring for whatever
22 needs they expressed. Imagine that, house calls. They certainly don't make
23 them like that anymore.

24 Given his retirement to Florida more than
25 11 years ago, it's very likely that many of you here today didn't know Earl

1 very well, and that's your loss. Earl was part of what is increasingly a
2 dying breed, a solo practitioner who, without fanfare, self-promotion, or
3 ostentation represented his clients faithfully, honestly, and carefully.

4 In whatever he did, Earl was in for the long haul. Loyalty and
5 service were a part of his life. What he did, he did quietly. In addition to
6 being a lifetime trustee of Muhlenberg College and trustee of Muhlenberg
7 College Alumni Trust, he was a past president of Saucon Valley High
8 School Alumni Association, served as a member Northampton County
9 Children's Aides Society and Pennsylvania Heart Association. He also
10 served on the boards of Senior Citizens of Northampton County, Wiley
11 House, the Ostomy Association, Incorporated, of Northampton County,
12 and Northampton County Historical Society.

13 Earl was also an active member of our Bar Association. He
14 served on the Board of Governors for more than six years. He was
15 president of the Northampton County Bar Association in 1973, and he
16 regularly attended its quarterly meetings until his retirement.

17 I knew Earl in his capacity as Chancellor of the Moravian
18 Church which has its denominational office in Bethlehem. Although he
19 was a lifelong Lutheran and member of Christ Lutheran Church in
20 Hellertown many years, Earl felt drawn to the Moravians and was enlisted
21 by Judge Williams to serve as legal counsel for the denomination.

22 I had the privilege of serving on the governing administrative
23 body of the Moravian Church during his tenure as Chancellor. I came to
24 appreciate his counsel and advice. Although he was essentially a
25 transactional lawyer who didn't spend a lot of time in the courtroom, he

1 had a great deal of common sense and an ability to deal with conflict and
2 achieve consensus.

3 Earl felt his service to the Moravian Church was a true calling --
4 a very real ministry -- and quite proud to submit his annual statement for
5 services rendered, \$1, and he expected payment.

6 Suffering from deteriorating eyesight for many years, Earl
7 found time to enjoy his retirement in Florida with his wife Kay. He loved
8 to garden, although he preferred Pennsylvania tomatoes to the Florida
9 variety, and he spent his last few years gardening and fishing.

10 The condolences of our Bar are extended to his widow Kay and
11 his family. We, his colleagues of the Northampton County Bar, share in
12 their sorrow and loss. On behalf of the Northampton County Bar
13 Association, I respectfully request that when this Honorable Court
14 adjourns for the day, it does so out of respect for the memory of our
15 departed colleague Earl S. Heffner, Jr.

16 PRESIDENT JUDGE FREEDBERG: Thank you, Attorney
17 Santee. Well done.

18 Attorney Frank S. Poswistilo will memorialize Edward G.
19 Ruyak, Esquire.

20 MR. POSWISTILO: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 May it please the Court, Your Honor, members of the Ruyak
22 family, my fellow attorneys at the Bar, ladies and gentlemen, it is my
23 privilege and honor today to make remarks commemorating the life of my
24 good friend and colleague for more than half a century, Edward G. Ruyak
25 who died on May 16, 2006, at the age of 84 years.

1 Ed, a third-generation American, was the son of the late Helen
2 Gasdaska Ruyak and George Ruyak, who was a councilman in the City of
3 Bethlehem, and he was a faithful member of St. Anne's Roman Catholic
4 Church in Bethlehem, was a member of the Bethlehem Club and the Silver
5 Creek Country Club. He was an alumnus of Liberty High School where he
6 was captain of the track team. He attended Moravian College and was
7 graduated from Temple University in 1943.

8 After graduation, he went into the Navy, and he was sent to the
9 University of Notre Dame where he became a lieutenant junior grade.
10 After the war, Ed was graduated from Dickinson Law School in 1948. He
11 served his legal clerkship in the law office of H.P. McFadden and Milton
12 Riskin. After being admitted to the Bar on December 5, 1949, he opened
13 an office at 112 East 3rd Street in South Bethlehem and shortly thereafter
14 moved to 625 South 4th Street where he remained as a sole practitioner
15 until he retired in December 1994.

16 During World War II, Ed participated in the invasion of the
17 Philippines and various battles in the South Pacific. While serving in the
18 Pacific, his father became very ill. Ed was able to get leave, but did not
19 make it home until after his father died. Ed was then appointed as naval
20 instructor at the Naval Science and Tactics Maritime Academy in
21 Morrisville, Pennsylvania. This was a fortuitous assignment since it resulted
22 in one of the best events in his life.

23 Since the living quarters at the academy were overcrowded,
24 many of the instructors resided in private homes in the Morrisville area. Ed
25 resided in the home of a school teacher who suggested to him that she had

1 a very nice girl she would like him to meet. A blind date was arranged for a
2 particular Saturday night with Eleanor Dolton. However, a short time
3 before the arranged Saturday night date, Eleanor's old friend -- boyfriend,
4 was discharged from the service and called for a Saturday night date, which
5 Eleanor could not refuse.

6 Therefore, she sent her sister, Grace Dolton, who substituted
7 for the blind date. Grace was reluctant to do so and refused until her
8 mother said, "We can't let that poor sailor go dateless on a Saturday night."
9 So after much persuasion by her sister, her mother, Grace agreed to go on
10 the Saturday night date. And then on October 16, 1948, Ed Ruyak and
11 Grace Dolton were married. Incidentally, Eleanor also was married to her
12 boyfriend.

13 At the time of his death, Ed was survived by his wife Grace and
14 their three sons: Edward, Jr., his wife Deborah; Dr. Robert Ruyak and his
15 wife Jennifer and their two children, Allison and Brian; and their son
16 Douglas and wife Kathleen and daughter Meghan. He was also survived by
17 his sole sibling, his sister, Marcelline Leidich.

18 In 1952, Ed joined the staff of the District Attorney Elias
19 Spengler and then became first assistant under District Attorney Clinton
20 Budd Palmer. When Palmer was appointed to the bench in 1957, Ed was
21 appointed as District Attorney. He served in that capacity for a period of
22 three years. So in all he had approximately eight years in the district
23 attorney's office.

24 In those days back in the late 1950's, it was a tradition that a
25 district attorney would not succeed himself, and when Ed's appointed term

1 expired, he chose not to run. He was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "I
2 prefer to abide by the tradition, although I've only served three years as
3 district attorney."

4 During the time Ed served in the district attorney's office, life in
5 Northampton County was quite different from what it is now. Publications
6 acceptable today were then considered indecent. The film "And God
7 Created Woman" starring Bridget Bardot being shown at the State Theater
8 in Easton caused a public outcry whereas today, it would probably be
9 shown in prime time television. Retail sales on Sunday were a crime. There
10 was a thing known as the "Blue Laws." And gambling in Pennsylvania,
11 especially Northampton County, was a no-no.

12 In the late 1950's, the Northampton County Committee for the
13 Promotion of Decent Literature was formed with the assistance of District
14 Attorney Ruyak. The display racks in magazine stores and newsstands
15 throughout the county were largely cleared of objectionable publications. A
16 newspaper article in 1957 quoted Ruyak as attributing the success of the
17 committee to voluntary cooperation of distributors and news dealers.

18 The Blue Laws were enforced prohibiting Sunday retail sales
19 and insofar as gambling was concerned, a Bethlehem Globe Times headline
20 of January 1958 read, quote, "District Attorney Ruyak orders clubs and
21 churches to halt lotteries operations," end quote, and Robert Mason's
22 "Around the Courthouse" column in the Bethlehem Globe Times reported
23 that top level democrats were chagrined when told by District Attorney
24 Ruyak to cease and desist in their attempt to run a county-wide lottery
25 within the confines of the Democratic Party.

1 Another newspaper clipping in February 1958 reported that
2 District Attorney Ruyak, the chief county detective, and Easton police
3 officers viewed the Bardot film at a 1:30 showing at the State Theater and,
4 quote, "After making a careful study of the film," end quote, they requested
5 the management to cut only one minor scene from the film.

6 Yes, life was different in the 1950's. Ed's annual district
7 attorney's report from 1958 shows 772 cases handled by his office. 772
8 cases included 420 criminal court cases, 279 support cases and 73 surety of
9 the peace and appeals from summary convictions. 30 cases went through
10 to a jury trial. 21 were found guilty, and nine were acquitted.

11 In addition to his work in the criminal law field, Ed had an
12 active civil practice. His office reception room was always filled with clients
13 waiting to see him. He served his clients well, even to the extent in one
14 particular case of being successful in getting a nonexistent Will probated.

15 Ed was very cognizant of his Slovak heritage. He was founder
16 of the Lehigh Valley Slovak Association, and he served as solicitor for a
17 number of Slovak organizations in the county. He received many accolades
18 from them; however, the accolades did not come solely from the Slovak
19 community. In 1984, he was honored by the Puerto Rican Beneficial
20 Society for his outstanding legal work and community service throughout
21 that organization.

22 He served as solicitor of many social clubs and nonprofit
23 organizations in the county. In 1977, he was honored by the Bethlehem
24 Citizens Clubmen's Association with its outstanding achievements award as
25 Clubman of the year, and again in 1995, the group honored him for his

1 years of dedicated service.

2 Ed was a winner. He would set goals and achieve those goals.
3 I remember way back when the Northampton County Bar summer outings
4 were held at the Locust Valley Country Club. A golf foursome of Ed,
5 Charlie Smith, the late Ray Haggarty, and myself were novices at the game
6 and some of us not only continue to be novices, but fell by the wayside
7 completely, whereas Ed persisted and became a very proficient golfer.

8 He was a winner. I remember the democratic convention being
9 held in Atlantic City in 1964. My wife and I had tickets to the convention.
10 The tickets came directly from the White House, since Peg had a classmate
11 who was on the White House staff in the Kennedy administration and was
12 a holdover in the Johnson administration. Ed got tickets from the local
13 democratic committee.

14 Anyway, trying to get into Convention Hall in Atlantic City on
15 the night the candidate was to be nominated was a mob scene and tickets
16 for the White House or elsewhere were not being honored at certain
17 entrances. Ed says, "Stick by me and we'll get in." The next thing I knew,
18 Ed and Grace and the McHughs were not going into Convention Hall, but
19 were on the delegates' floor marching with the delegates, waiving signs, and
20 chanting "Johnson, Johnson, Johnson."

21 Ed was a winner. He continued to be so until the time of his
22 death. He suffered a stroke in November 1993. From that time until his
23 death on May 16, 2006, I never heard him complain about his condition.
24 Whenever I visited him, he always greeted me with a smile and expressed
25 an interest in current events, especially democratic politics around the

1 courthouse.

2 Sometime shortly before his death, I visited him at the nursing
3 home, and as I walked into the room, here was a man physically impaired
4 by a stroke, suffering from a heart condition, and having had a leg
5 amputated. Here he was propped up in bed with a phone by his side. Here
6 he was watching stock market results on television. He smiled and said in
7 his impaired voice, "Frank, I made more money today in the stock market
8 than some days practicing law."

9 Ed was a winner. And with that, I close.

10 With the permission of the Court, I respectfully move that
11 when the Court adjourns today, it does so also in honor of the memory of
12 Attorney Edward G. Ruyak, an outstanding attorney and public servant, a
13 devoted husband, a loving father, a doting grandfather, and a gentleman.

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE FREEDBERG: Thank you, Frank, for
15 that very excellent reminiscence of a life well-lived at the Bar.

16 Today we honor three men who shared important values as
17 citizens, as family members, and as attorneys. Collectively, they were
18 members of the Bar of this Court for 135 years. They had an outstanding
19 impact on those with whom they practiced and on their community and on
20 this Court.

21 Each was committed to the welfare of his clients. They were
22 loyal to their clients, they lived up to the trust placed in them. They knew
23 that the work they did as advocates and as counselors was important, and
24 they did it well.

25 They recognized that they not only were to speak on behalf of

1 their clients, but that they were to advise their clients. They were to tell
2 their clients when they were doing the right thing, and they were also to tell
3 their clients when they were doing the wrong thing. And they shared their
4 advice and their knowledge and their information effectively with the
5 people who came to them and put trust in them as counselors and as
6 advocates.

7 Each was loyal to this Court. They were known as people of
8 integrity, people of confidence, and people of courage. In every respect
9 over the years, they had the complete confidence and the respect of the
10 judges who sat on this bench, who sit on this bench.

11 With regard to their fellows at the Bar, their personal decency,
12 their thoughtfulness, and, in fact, their good humor, won each of them
13 respect, trust, and friendship of the Bar. They were a collegiate bunch and
14 they deserved the warmth and affection and admiration that the members
15 of the Bar displayed to each of them.

16 As we have heard, each was imbued with a commitment to
17 public service. Each served the community in his way. Ed Ruyak was an
18 able prosecutor who rose to the level of district attorney and served
19 effectively as district attorney in Northampton County. He was active on
20 behalf of many community organizations and was recognized and honored
21 for those achievements.

22 Earl Heffner was a trustee of Muhlenberg College, a leader in
23 his community, an active participant on behalf of his religion and church,
24 and he earned the respect of everyone in the community for everything he
25 did and contributed.

1 Harry Blair was a legend and will be a legend in the history of
2 our Court. As you have heard Judge Baratta ably set forth, he effectively
3 was the person who made important decisions in many, many family law
4 matters for many, many years. He wasn't a judge, but he well could have
5 been a judge. He performed the important work that judges perform, and
6 he did it with a commitment and a sincerity that we will also, all of his
7 colleagues at the Bar, will all remember.

8 He was devoted in his career to helping children. That was an
9 important thing to Harry. He could have made a lot more money doing
10 other things, practicing other kinds of law or pursuing other vocations, but
11 it was important to him to do something for kids who were in trouble,
12 whether they were children in dependency actions who had been abused or
13 battered or in some way not properly cared for, or children who were
14 caught between their parents in vicious custody battles, Harry was always
15 concerned for their welfare.

16 When he retired, the Court designated a Harry C.J. Blair hearing
17 room in recognition of his achievements, and he was honored by the Bar.
18 His picture hangs in that room. As we now work on rehabbing this
19 building of the courthouse and will have new hearing rooms, I can assure
20 his family and friends and members of the Bar that there will be a Harry
21 C.J. Blair hearing room always in this courthouse to memorialize his
22 contribution.

23 Each of these men were people of high caliber. They lived their
24 lives well in the community and at the Bar and they enriched all of us.
25 When we adjourn today, we do so out of respect for their memory and is

1 with affection and admiration for each of them.

2 At this time I will declare a brief recess so that members of the
3 Bar and family and friends can get together and meet and have an
4 opportunity to speak with each other. We'll take a short recess.

5 We'll reconvene for the call of the list at 10:00 for those who
6 are here for argument court. I understand, Mr. Kovacs, that there is to be a
7 reception in the law library. Is that right?

8 MR. KOVACS: There is.

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE FREEDBERG: All right. We'll be in
10 recess now. Thank you.

11 (The proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATION

Memorial Service
October 3, 2006

I.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me in the hearing of the above cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same.

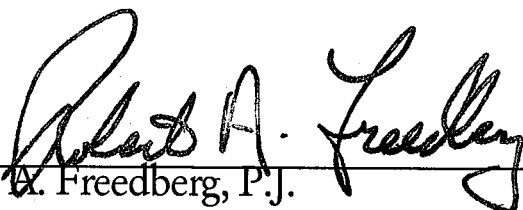
DATE: Nov. 14, 2006


Sandra M. Borger, RPR
Official Court Reporter

II.

I HEREBY DIRECT that the foregoing record of the proceedings in the above cause is approved and directed to be filed.

DATE: _____, 2006


Robert A. Freedberg, P.J.