

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR:  
EDWARD J. DANSER, ESQ.  
DENNIS S. HUDAK, ESQ.

---

Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1, Northampton County  
Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, October 9, 2001,  
at 9:00 a.m.

---

APPEARANCES:

GUS MILIDES, ESQUIRE—  
On behalf of EDWARD J. DANSER, ESQUIRE

NICHOLAS M. ZANAKOS, ESQUIRE—  
On behalf of DENNIS S. HUDAK, ESQUIRE

ALSO PRESENT:

HONORABLE ROBERT A. FREEDBERG, PRESIDENT JUDGE  
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN  
HONORABLE F.P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN  
HONORABLE ROBERT E. SIMPSON  
HONORABLE STEPHEN G. BARATTA

---

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2001  
MORNING SESSION

\*\*\*

THE COURT: Good morning. The Court recognizes Michael Riskin,  
President of the Northampton County Bar Association. Mr. Riskin.

MR. RISKIN: May it please the Court and all those who are gathered  
here today, it is my sad duty to state for the record that Retired President  
Judge Alfred T. Williams, Jr., passed away yesterday in Philadelphia. It is  
ironic that his death occurred at the time of the annual memorial service.

In the future the Court and the Bar Association will work together to  
schedule a special memorial service to honor Judge Williams and I move

when the Court adjourns today, it would do so out of respect and affection for Judge Williams.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Riskin. For 33 years Judge Alfred T. Williams, Jr., served this Court and this community. It was his life's work and it was a labor of love for Judge Williams and we were the beneficiaries. He was, as all who appeared before him will recollect, a special trial judge with an excellent mind, a true scholar of the law who was always in charge of the courtroom and always prepared. He was a thoughtful leader who served this Court as president judge for 12 years. Much of the success of this Court administratively is due to the innovations and the hard work of President Judge Williams.

I knew him in a way that I'm sure others may not have known him. I recollect him as a stern judge in the courtroom from the years when I practiced before him as an assistant district attorney, but I also knew him as a compassionate and caring judge who worried deeply about the troubled people who appeared before him. I know that Al Williams took his cases home with him at night. He was a judge who labored long and hard over what the right sentence was. He was a judge who worried about child custody cases, he was troubled by the juvenile court cases that he had, and he cared a great deal about the defendants who appeared before him for sentencing.

Judge Williams was always committed to doing things excellently. That was the only way he knew how to apply himself to a task before him. He ran the court not for the convenience of judges, nor for the convenience of attorneys. Always foremost in his mind was what was best for the public.

His passing yesterday leaves a void for this Court and in the hearts of his colleagues. Today we pay tribute, in an ironic term, to the departed members of the bar. Judge Williams valued the traditions of this Court and the annual memorial service certainly was a tradition that he valued.

I can tell you that he also valued greatly the warmth of his relationship with members of the Northampton County Bar. I have no doubt that Al Williams would want us to go forward today with this very important memorial service. As Michael Riskin announced, at a later time we will schedule a special memorial service to honor the memory of our beloved colleague Judge Alfred T. Williams.

And now, once again, Mr. Riskin, we will recognize you so that you can introduce the eulogists today.

MR. RISKIN: I want to thank the Court for allowing this time to honor and memorialize, too, deceased lawyers of the Northampton County Bar Association. I had the honor knowing both Attorney Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak and although they are no longer here to serve the citizens of Northampton County, their past service while alive is a fitting memorial to the profession that they both respected and loved.

Now to speak on behalf of Attorney Edward J. Danser is Gus Milides.

MR. MILIDES: Edward John Danser, born April 30th, 1919, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, died September 7th, 2000, Phoenix, Arizona, 81 years of age.

Ask not how did he die, but ask how did he live. Ask not what did he gain, but ask what did he give. Henry David Thoreau teaches us, "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it's because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

Ed Danser, as he journeyed through his 81 years of life, always paced to the tempo of his own drummer. He lived distinctively. He lived decisively. He was in truth a student and scholar, an athlete, a distinguished gymnast, soldier, pilot, flight instructor, and a distinguished attorney.

In 1941 while at Temple University, Ed Danser had the honor of being the first collegiate gymnast to win the national title in floor exercise when it was first introduced at the National Collegiate Championships held at the University of Chicago. He won more than 50 gold, silver, and bronze medals from high school, from the Y.M.C.A., the A.A.U., and collegiate championships.

Ed Danser holds the unique distinction of having received two special awards given by Temple University. On his graduation he was honored by Temple University with one award for academic excellence and the other for athletic achievements and prowess. Four years ago in 1997, Ed Danser was inducted into Temple's Sports Hall of Fame. Were it not for the cancellation of the Olympic Games during World War II, Edward could have earned the honor of representing the United States as an all-around gymnast in 1940 and 1944.

He remained active in gymnastics even after he finished competing. For years he was a judge and a board member of the United States Sports Acrobatics Federation judging acrobats and gymnasts all over the country and occasionally overseas.

Ed joined the Army in 1941 as a private and after a short stint as a drill instructor, he attended Officer's Training School and transferred to the Army Air Corp where he flew T-47 Thunderbolts. He was charged with the responsibility of training other pilots and was promoted to the rank of captain in the United States Air Force. The war ended just prior to his departure to the Pacific.

His military experiences during '42 and '46 led him to take on an avocational career as a glider pilot and participated as an owner of a flight school in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, until he moved to Arizona in 1982 at which time he retired and where he could be seen there occasionally soaring in a glider at Lake Pleasant.

During the war, Ed married his high school sweetheart Kay Bossinger with whom he had four children. Dr. Donald Danser, Attorney Dwight Danser, Ed Danser, Jr., and Katherine Kelson. After he and Kay were divorced, he married Fay Balliet of Allentown with whom he lived until his death.

In 1946 Ed enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania Law School from which he was graduated with honors and was a member of the order of the Coif. Upon his graduation it was then that he moved to Easton where he embarked on the legal career engaging in the general practice of law in the firm of Fackenthal, Teel, and Danser, and then later in the firm with Danser and Brose and finally as a sole practitioner in the last two decades of his legal career.

As an attorney, Ed was a truly professional advocate who befriended those who really were in need and he was always present with a word of encouragement and good cheer. Though he represented a variety of people and a myriad of causes, his primary interest was that of education. For many years he served as solicitor to the Wilson Area School District. He informally organized an Association of School Board Solicitors which met monthly for the exchange of knowledge and information.

Ed Danser was talented in many ways, athletically, intellectually and professionally. His life was full and rewarding. I am proud and honored to salute the celebration of Ed Danser's life and to relate his achievements. He will be missed by both his families, his friends and his colleagues, his former clients and certainly by me.

THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney Milides. Mr. Riskin?

JUDGE McFADDEN: President Judge Freedberg, colleagues on the bench, members of the Bar Association and friends and family of Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak, it is with deep sadness that this Court convenes today to reflect upon the lives and work of our esteemed members who have passed away within the past year. As Shakespeare so aptly stated, "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions," and so it seems for those of us gathered here today.

Mere words cannot express the deep sense of loss which we always feel on occasions such as this. The sense of loss has been recorded and their many achievements have been recounted and the resolutions have been prepared and offered for adoption by the members of the bar composed by their intimate associates. The Court is grateful for those appropriate and deserved tributes. We concur and join in the sentiments expressed.

Each of those we honor today stood in the well of this courtroom and took the oath of attorney "to behave himself within this Court according to the best of his learning and ability" and "not to delay the cause of any person for lucre or malice." Each fulfilled that oath with distinction. We are here today to pay tribute to one whose career was felled midstream as well as one who was in the sunset of a long and active life.

Edward Danser was admitted to practice in December of 1948 after graduating from Temple University and with honors from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Mr. Danser was a talented attorney, accomplished gymnast, and avid aviation buff. His son Dwight, also a member of our bar, continues the tradition of excellence begun by his father.

Dennis Hudak held a master in labor law from N.Y.U. and conducted his practice in downtown Bethlehem. He served this Court and community for nearly 24 years with distinction and is missed by our bar, this bench, and his clients.

To the families of our deceased brethren, we express our deep sense of sorrow and loss. There is a measure of consolation in the knowledge that theirs were useful and active lives. Their records remain unblemished and will continue to bring honor to them, to you, their families, and to the courts they served with fidelity and devotion.

In recognition of the distinguished careers of Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak, the resolutions presented are unanimously adopted. The record of this proceeding is ordered spread on the minutes of this Court. Copies thereof shall be sent to the families of our deceased brethren.

When the Court stands adjourned today, it will do so in honor of and out of deep respect for Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak.

THE COURT: Thank you, Judge McFadden. And thank you to the eulogists for your eloquent tributes to our departed members.

The Bar Association will hold a brief reception in the jury lounge for our guests and for the members of the bar at this time. We will take a recess at this point. The argument list will be called in this courtroom at a quarter of ten for those who are here for the argument list.

At this point the court is in recess so that we may greet the families of Attorneys Danser and Hudak. Court stands in recess.

(The proceedings concluded.)

\*\*\*