

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RE: BERNARD D. BROEKER, ESQ.)
ELIAS W. SPENGLER, ESQ.) Court Minutes
JOHN F. GOLDSMITH, ESQ.)
MICHAEL C. SCHRADER, ESQ.)

Memorial Services held in Court Room No. 1, Northampton County Courthouse, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, September 6, 1989.

BEFORE: HONORABLE ALFRED T. WILLIAMS, JR.
President Judge, Presiding.

HONORABLE MICHAEL V. FRANCIOSA, Judge.

HONORABLE ROBERT A. FREEDBERG, Judge.

HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN, Judge.

HONORABLE F. P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN, Judge.

HONORABLE ROBERT E. SIMPSON, JR., Judge.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: This court en banc is specially convened at the suggestion and request of the Northampton County Bar Association for the purpose of memorializing deceased members of this Bar. For that purpose, the Court recognizes the President of the Northampton County Bar Association, J. Stephen Kreglow, Esquire.

J. STEPHEN KREGLOW: May it please the Court.

Family members and friends of our deceased brethren, members of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning and welcome to a very special occasion in the history of our Association. This morning we will pay respect to four of our former colleagues. The words that are spoken this day become a permanent part of the records of our Bar and our County. This tribute is but a small gesture compared to the contributions given to the people of this County by the four men we honor today.

Those we honor are Bernard D. Broeker, eulogy to be given by Jacob S. Kolb; Elias W. Spengler, eulogy to be given by the Honorable William C. Rybak; John F. Goldsmith, eulogy to be given by James A. Hemstreet; and Michael C. Schrader, eulogy to be given by the Honorable Carleton T. Woodring.

JAMES A. HEMSTREET: May it please the Court.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Mr. Hemstreet.

MR. HEMSTREET: When John Francis Goldsmith died on February 5th, 1989, his death terminated a father-son law practice that had lasted for more than 100 years.

His father, Aaron Goldsmith, was admitted to practice in Northampton County in 1883 and became a distinguished member of this Bar. Aaron Goldsmith is remembered for representing the City of Easton in an action against the City brought by the heirs of William and Thomas Penn wherein the heirs of the Penns sought possession of the land on which the old court house stood in the Center Square of Easton. In the year 1898, he argued the case before the United States Supreme Court on behalf of the City of Easton — and won!

When John was admitted to the Northampton County Bar in 1932, he joined his father in the practice of law.

John showed an early interest in legal matters. At age 16, and while he was a senior at Easton High School, he wrote an essay on the United States Constitution, and the editor of one of the local newspapers — The Easton Free Press — published the article in full in its publication of September 15th, 1922.

John entered Lafayette College as a member of the Class of 1928. In his junior year he was elected editor-in-chief of The Lafayette, a semi-weekly publication. Here is a quote from one of his editorials: "In America we have a government of laws and not of men. Only education and the proper kind of education can prove the right oil with which to lubricate the machinery of the government."

In January, 1932, at the age of 25, a book John wrote called "Quiz Yourself" was published by Harcourt, Brace and Company, and this publication was mentioned in both the New York Herald Tribune Book Section and in the New York Times Book Section.

At the age of 29, John wrote a novel about a fictitious individual who became President of the United States. This novel, called "President

Randolph, As I Knew Him," was written in 1935 and described the future historic world events of the 1950's and the 1960's. It is realistic and gives you the illusion that you are living in 1970 and looking backwards in time.

The book is a bold attempt to solve the greatest problem of modern times — War! It analyzes the causes of armed conflict and offers a sound and practical plan for universal peace and international justice.

In 1934, in the depths of the Depression, John ran for the Pennsylvania Legislature on the Republican ticket. He lost the election, but this practical experience in politics was an education he frequently mentioned — and never forgot. You should know that John was not only a writer and an author, but a man with good intellectual ability.

He was a political activist with genuine convictions. In 1937, he helped to organize a group of young lawyers to fight President Roosevelt's attempt to pack the Supreme Court. In 1940, he led a fight to ban parking meters in the City of Easton.

However, for the last 25 years of his legal career, John was an investment counselor — a job he did very well.

Prior to graduation from Lafayette College, John married Mary Louise Miles, a resident of the City of Easton. They had three children: Constance Goldsmith Addington, Thomas F. Goldsmith and Timothy S. Goldsmith.

Mary Louise Goldsmith died in 1975.

Thereafter, John married Huldah Dimmit Kennedy, who is the present Mrs. Goldsmith.

A brief review of a small portion of the memorabilia left by John confirmed what I already knew from years of friendship — He was a dedicated family man.

All of his life, John was a gentleman of means, of good education and good health. He could do what he wanted to do, when he wanted to do it, and that is exactly what he did.

John Francis Goldsmith had a good quality of life. It lasted for more than 80 years, and he enjoyed every minute of it.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Hemstreet.

The Court recognizes Judge Woodring.

JUDGE FRANCIOSA: President Judge Williams, my colleagues on the Bench, members of the Northampton County Bar Association, family and friends of Bernard Broeker, Elias Spengler, John Goldsmith, Michael Schrader, and to the ladies and gentlemen who are in Court this morning:

The certainty of death has once again brought us together to reflect and consider the lives and work of four of our esteemed members who have passed away since we last met a year ago in this same courtroom. We are honored to have the family and intimate friends of our deceased members with us for this memorial service.

The occasion of memorializing the passing of our deceased members necessarily reawakens feelings of sadness, and the Judges of this Court share the deep sense of sorrow and loss felt by the bereaved families. However, the time for mourning and condolences has passed and we are gathered here to pay tribute to our departed brethren and to draw consolation from the fullness of their lives.

Their many achievements have been recounted in the resolutions which have been prepared and offered by their close associates. The Court is grateful for these appropriate and deserved eulogies. We concur and join in the sentiments expressed; and we, of course, will not repeat what has been so well said by their eulogists.

But, the response of this Court cannot be limited to the mere record acceptance of the content of the resolutions. The contributions made by the four men whose memory we honor deserve recognition by the Court as well as the tributes received from their associates at the Bar.

A year ago, the list of those honored included some whose careers were ended early and some whose careers were long and active. The four lawyers from whom we seek to gain inspiration through today's service practiced law for a combined total in excess of 200 years.

Bernard D. Broeker, Elias W. Spengler, John Goldsmith and Michael Schrader were all fifty-year veterans at the practice of the law.

Many of the members of the Bar now met for the memorial tribute to these deceased members did not have the privilege of knowing them. For that reason, the credits and honor each of them brought to this Bar, their county and this Court should be made known to all who seek to call themselves lawyers. The importance of this event in the life of our Bar is that it perpetuates the belief among the living members of our Association that the acts and deeds of our deceased members are worthy of emulation. Perhaps, the justification for maintaining our tradition of memorializing deceased members can be found in this quotation from the writings of the late Oliver Wendell Holmes, Justice of the United States Supreme Court:

"The law, wherein, as in a magic mirror, we see reflected not only our lives, but the lives of all men that have been."

The Court is proud to record our admiration and deepest respect for each of the deceased members. Each had his own special claim for the affection and esteem of the Judges of this Court, the lawyers of this county and its citizens.

Bernard Broeker was the embodiment of the corporate lawyer from head to foot. Yet, he never allowed the plush conference rooms, offices and corridors of the elite corporate law firms to erode the down-to-earth values of his Kansas birthplace.

Elias W. Spengler came from that colorful subspecies known as the up-county or country lawyer. He was by nature independent in mind and spirit; although he made room for his son, Dan, he went mainly his own way as a "solo practitioner."

Michael Schrader was a lawyer by profession but a historian by avocation. In the introduction to his work entitled "200 Years of Life in Northampton County," he wrote the following:

"Since the future is built on the past, surely we of the generation of the Bicentennial can face the new day — and the future — in the firm conviction that we and our posterity will continue to enjoy the fruits of the system of justice, domestic tranquility, participate in the general welfare and appreciate the blessings of liberty as our fore-fathers with their uncanny foresight planned. The rule of law persists and with the help of God it will continue to persist. To that end and to the common law so laboriously built about the mythical figure of 'The Reasonable Man,' we dedicate this historical review."

John Goldsmith was at his best one winter's night on February 5, 1982, when he spoke at ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of his admission to the Bar. He expressed his sentiments as follows:

"I want to say just a word or two about this feeling of the flight of years. I have always been impressed by the mystery of time and perhaps many of you have. Fifty years is a certain measurement in the span of time in our lives. It seems like

only yesterday that I took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to refrain from practice for filthy lucre. . . . I question whether I've kept the latter part of that oath; but, I have kept the first part of it. That is why they call me a conservative."

Yes, the members who passed away in this past year were very different personalities and engaged in different types of practices. Nonetheless, they shared a common pride in their profession and a common goal to honorably discharge their obligations to their clients without violating their responsibilities to perform such duties as creditable officers of this Court.

In recognition of the distinguished careers of Bernard Broeker, Elias Spengler, John Goldsmith and Michael Schrader, the resolutions presented by the several committees of the Bar Association are unanimously adopted. A record of these proceedings shall be transcribed, filed and made part of the minutes of this Court. Copies thereof shall be sent to the families of each of our distinguished brethren.

This Court now stands recessed in honor of and with deep respect for the accomplishments of Bernard Broeker, Elias Spengler, John Goldsmith and Michael Schrader. When the Court adjourns this day, it will do so in honor of these distinguished past members of our Bar.
