

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR
ATTORNEY BENJAMIN F. BLACK
ATTORNEY WILLIAM F. BRODT, JR.
ATTORNEY WILLIAM B. JOACHIM, JR.
ATTORNEY DOMINICK A. LOCKWOOD
ATTORNEY ROBERT MARGOLIS

Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1, Northampton County
Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, October 1, 2002,
at 9:00 a.m.

ALSO PRESENT:

HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN, JUDGE
HONORABLE F. P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN, JUDGE
HONORABLE JACK A. PANELLA, JUDGE
HONORABLE EDWARD G. SMITH, JUDGE

THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and particularly good morning to the members of the families of those who we honor this morning.

This Court is convened today en banc to recognize and to recall members of this bar who have passed away during this year. I wish to express my regrets that Judge Freedberg, our President Judge, could not be here today, and I will serve in his stead.

The Court recognizes the President of the Northampton County Bar Association, Joanne Kelhart.

MS. KELHART: May it please the Court, colleagues, friends and family of Benjamin Black, William Brodt, William Joachim, Dominick Lockwood and Robert Margolis.

This year is an especially sad one for the Northampton County Bar. We have lost five beloved members of this bar. And we are reminded by

Samuel Johnson that it is not your death that is the most important event but how you lived your life.

The men we eulogize today were shining examples of public service, philanthropy and hard work. They were soldiers, husbands, fathers, brothers and our brethren at the bar. They heeded a call to uphold the rights and freedoms we enjoy by the common goal of being a lawyer. These men brought honor to our profession, and they brought integrity to their dealings with their colleagues and with this Court. They were compassionate, and a common thread among them was their love of the law. They held it in their hearts, and they represented their clients with zeal, and honesty.

These men are shining examples to those of us who continue in this profession, and they exhort us to be better lawyers and better people. The standards they set are high. They understood that this is a noble profession that requires high standards. And we celebrate their legacy today and hold fast to the treasure they have left for our bar.

At this time I would like to thank the Court for designating this day to commemorate our colleagues. And I would also like to thank the participants who will be eulogizing the members of our bar this morning, The Honorable Alan M. Black, Michael Riskin, Thomas Maloney, Gus Milides and The Honorable Jeanette Reibman.

MS. KELHART: Will the Court please recognize Tom Maloney.

JUDGE MORAN: Mr. Maloney.

MR. MALONEY: May it please the Court, members and friends of the Joachim family, my colleagues, Judge Black from Lehigh County and Senator Reibman, who I'm delighted to see here today.

It's an honor and privilege to represent the Northampton County Bar Association to speak briefly in memory of William B. Joachim, Jr.

In 1999 Tom Brokaw, an American patriot, newscaster and author, compiled a book entitled "The Greatest Generation Speaks." It is dedicated to the men and women of the "Greatest Generation," those who grew up in the Great Depression, who came of age in World War II and then devoted their adult lives to the building of America. They are those who rode the treacherous currents and sailed with the fair winds of most of the 20th Century.

Please join with me this morning as we ask the question Brokaw so eloquently posed and reflect on the life and times of Bill Joachim.

Although born in New Jersey 83 years ago, Bill adopted Pennsylvania as his home. After graduation from high school in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, where I would note he was a star athlete and scholar, he then received his Bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University in 1938, excelling there in studies.

As many of the Greatest Generation did, he worked during the day and attended law school at night. He went to Temple. That work and duty, however, was put on hold, and the war years took Bill from his loved ones and his family and his career. After a stint in the infantry in 1941, he graduated from Officers Candidate School and became a skilled navigator. He flew 45 missions on a B-24 bomber in the heated battle days of the South Pacific. Bill, in keeping with his characteristic humility, never spoke of his heroics, and only recently did many of us learn that he was seriously wounded in an air battle while defending his plane from a Japanese fighter. Seriously wounded, he recovered and reentered the service and began flying again.

He received numerous commendations and, as they came his way, they were all accepted humbly by Bill. But I note for the record that they included the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

Bill graduated from Temple in 1947 from Temple Law School and was immediately retained as corporate counsel and secretary of the then powerful Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company located in Bethlehem. In 1958 the firm of Dodson and Butterfield, which dated back to the turn of the century, became Butterfield and Joachim. It is a tribute to Bill that that

firm continues to serve its clients to this day, 48 years later. He was honored by this Court, I remind you, and this bar association five years ago for achieving a half century of practice, and all done in the good stead of his colleagues and the Court.

As a lawyer, Bill had few equals in my opinion. He was an outstanding draftsman of complicated documents that affected the lives and the fortunes of many; complete in resolution and never the subject of costly litigation. His practice had as a foundation a model of ethics, character, perseverance and planning. But he shared with others. That firm served as a clinic of highly ethical principles and practices for so many. It served for John Watts Barret, William F. Brodt, for M.C. Schraeder, for Buck Hemphill, for myself, and even today, Kevin Kelleher and Dick Schadler, who practiced with Bill for the last ten or 15 years.

You were taught at that firm, and it was expected of you, to give back to your community. Bill asked this of you, but he himself led the way.

Just as Brokaw profiled in the Greatest Generation, A Building of America, Bill was a key member—and we heard this morning about Judge Black talking about his dad. Bill was part of that group. He was a key part of a small group of Lehigh Valley businessmen who founded a number of organizations, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Bethlehem Risk Corporation, the Bethlehem Acceptance Corporation. He acted as legal counsel to LVIP for many, many years, and those entities combined, particularly, with Bethlehem Risk, to facilitate and be the catalyst for over a thousand companies coming to the Lehigh Valley that might not be here otherwise. Bill's dream was to replace the lost industrial jobs with new ones. And that, my friends, is exactly what has happened in the last 35 years. He had a lot of help doing that. But he also showed leadership, steadfastness, and counsel to all those who endeavored to make that happen.

His other clients included Keystone Savings Bank where he served as a director for 25 years, Moravian College, PBS Channel 39, and Service Tire Company. They're names of organizations and companies that we're all familiar with. But isn't it interesting that those organizations prospered and benefited from his sage advice. They grew together in prominence and prestige as Bill Joachim grew. But all of that happened without a lot of fanfare, without being fancy about it, with Bill Joachim's characteristic humility and patience and no need for fancy marketing of his skills or the skills of his firm.

I would respectfully suggest to some of my colleagues that there may be a formula for success here.

Now we must focus for a moment on the individual in whose memory we gather here today.

He was no stranger to hard work even in his last days. There are those who knew him well. He had practiced for almost 55 years. And even though he was confronted with a serious physical problem nine months ago, he

had planned till the day of his death to return to his office. A building in which he had his firm located was in the process of installing a chairlift so that he could have easy access to the second floor. He even talked with his wife a week before he died in a ride by car to the office complex to make sure that he was able to plan his entrance and what steps to take and what doors to use.

Bill was generous. He was always sharing. He was loved and admired by many of his employees. And they, in turn—many of whom are here today as a tribute to Bill—served him loyally and well.

He was honored for this trait a number of years ago by being named employer of the year by a related organization connected to the bar association.

He was a gentleman in all he did.

He led the Chamber of Commerce in Bethlehem. He was President of the Lehigh Valley Guidance Council and the Bethlehem Community Chest. He helped form the Kirkland Village where he resided with his beloved wife Ruth, was with Attorney Black and Mike Riskin's dad and mother, and he helped that from day one. As a matter of fact, there are those of you who might recall that Kirkland Village failed the first time out. And Bill was involved and was not happy that that took place and rejuvenated it, along with others, and it has come to be an outstanding institution, now a home to hundreds of senior citizens of Bethlehem.

So perhaps you will conclude, as I have, that William B. Joachim, Jr., was a good man, humble but influential, and a lawyer of the highest order.

Please join with me today as we celebrate his achievements at the bar and thank those who made it possible for Bill to be Bill. For what I have said at this point pales when compared to Bill's family and the loves of his life and his *raison d'être*—his wife Ruth of 54 years, always his companion, supporter, and, yes, directed many of his efforts; his children of whom he was fiercely proud, Larry, Tommy, Sue, Anne, Ruthie, and Sally; and, of course, his 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Like Bill, the children are bright and engaging, well educated, and very successful in their chosen careers.

In closing, this morning I've tried to have you look at this person from my eyes and voice. He was special to many and a gentleman to all, loved and admired by his family. As a lawyer, he made a career to be admired and emulated, but as a compassionate man, he made a life worth living.

So as Brokaw notes in his book "The Greatest Generation," if we are to heed the past to prepare for the future, we should listen to this voice of a generation that speaks to us of duty, honor, sacrifice, and accomplishment.

Members of the families of Ben Black, Bill Brodt, Bill Joachim, Dominick Lockwood, and Bob Margolis, to all of you this Court expresses its sincere condolences.

One of the best writers in the English language living today, V.S. Naipaul, had a comment that I think is apropos to today's proceeding. He wrote about our identity. "A man's identity is the sum of his achievements." We join you and the members of the bar association in recalling the lives of those we remember today and rejoicing in their achievements. Each of these men achieved much in their personal and professional lives. They created loving families who will live on beyond them and who will carry on their personal virtues. You, the members of their families, carry those virtues and their love, both of which will be with you and your children and your grandchildren for as long as memory remains.

We, the members of the bar and the bench, recall and rejoice in their professional achievements. Each contributed something distinctive and significant to our profession, their profession.

Ben Black, as Judge Black has told us this morning, began his career as a general practitioner at a difficult time, during the Depression. Like many who were called to the law, he moved on from that general practice to serve in business as a corporate executive in his family business, Morris Black and Company.

All of us who practice law are familiar with this pattern, for the legal education and the experience of the practice of law forms a solid background for achievement and success in business. We who are relatively young—and I'm approaching age 60 but still consider myself relatively young—did not see Ben Black in court as an active practitioner. But we all saw him as an active and contributing member of the bar and of this community. I frequently attended the bar association meetings over the past several years, and it was a joy to behold Ben Black and his constant companion, Milt Riskin, having a true time of their lives at those bar association meetings. They didn't need to be there for professional reasons. But they simply wanted to honor the bar and to enjoy the company of their peers.

I used to suggest to Milt Riskin, since the two of them drove to the bar association meetings, that the car should have a beacon or a light that said, "We're over 90, and we could go at any time. Beware." Never an accident, though. They continued to attend.

As Judge Black has pointed out, his father was a good family man—probably the most important thing any of us can be—a successful businessman, and an active member in the community. He, like another member of our honorees today, helped to establish the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, an achievement which has brought much good to our valley. He and other community leaders had the foresight to recognize the end of the industrial age was at hand, something few of us would have noted. But they did. And they established something lasting which provides jobs and opportunity for the entire Lehigh Valley. We miss him.

Bill Brodt, as pointed out, was one of Portland's most distinguished citizens and always will be. He was the very model of a true general practitioner of the law. A former Marine during the Korean War, he served his country well. Then he went on to law school and on to a career which provided services to individuals and corporations in need of legal advice, particularly involving transactions in real estate, banking, and estate planning.

His career and his life is the very embodiment of what Norman Rockwell would use as a model for a lawyer, a man who offered his experience, his training, and his education to his clients and who could be relied upon for his advice and his outstanding judgment.

Bill Joachim was another general practitioner and a former partner of Bill Brodt. His practice focused on business and corporate law. Like Bill Brodt, he served his country as an aviator in World War II. He served his community and our bar for over 50 years. Again, like Ben Black, he had the singular foresight to work to create the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and other associated organizations. As I said before, that was no minor achievement. For today thousands of men and women find employment, find a good life as the result of Ben's and Bill's achievements. With the decline of Bethlehem Steel, if these men and others had not had that foresight, we obviously would be a poorer community.

Dominick Lockwood, a truly interesting man, a lawyer, an entrepreneur, a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was a general practitioner with both an active office and courtroom practice, a man constantly on the move, both figuratively and literally: He and his signature bow tie were fixtures in this courtroom for years until he moved his primary practice to Monroe County. There he continued his varied practice and his entrepreneurial skills.

As Gus Milides pointed out to me when we talked about Dominick, he was one of those few people who offered 24-hour a day practice. You could pick up a telephone at any hour, and Dominick would be there to offer you his advice and his good humor. His joie de vivre, his distinctive personality, his professional achievements did much to enhance this bar and to bring joy to his family.

Finally, we recognize today Bob Margolis. Bob was one of those few who enjoyed a dual career both as a lawyer and as a certified public accountant. Like Ben Black, Bob was not one we saw in court in recent years. His service came through his advice to businessmen in complicated transactions and, in an important aspect of those transactions, tax advice.

The office practitioner, particularly one of Bob Margolis' ability and skill, is every bit as much a member of the bar as the skilled trial lawyer. Both provide to their clients that most precious product: Their good, solid advice.

Bob, like each of those we honor today, contributed greatly to this community. As Senator Reibman has pointed out, he helped establish LARC, the Kurtz Training Center, and many other programs to aid those who are mentally challenged. Society is often measured by how it cares for those who cannot care for themselves. Bob measures well in that respect and in every other respect.

These five men who we honor today each in their own distinctive way practiced their profession in a way which brought honor to our profession. Each of these five men in their own distinctive way gave great personal service to the community and, in so doing, brought honor to their profession and to themselves.

Finally, Ben Black, Bill Brodt, Bill Joachim, Dominick Lockwood, and Bob Margolis brought joy, knowledge, stability, and a valued moral compass to their spouses, their children, and their grandchildren. That is their most important and lasting legacy, their greatest achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now recess in honor to those who have departed. There will be a brief reception in the jury lounge sponsored by the bar association. We encourage you to attend that reception.

We will adjourn until quarter of 11:00 and then call the Argument List.

Thank you all for attending and honoring these fine men.

(The memorial service program concluded.)
