

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA  
CIVIL MINUTES

RE: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR :  
RALPH W. BARTHOLD, ESQUIRE, :  
ROBERT UNGERLEIDER, ESQUIRE, :  
RUSSELL KOWALYSHYN, ESQUIRE, :  
DANIEL F. JOELLA, ESQUIRE, :  
WAINWRIGHT E. H. DIEHL, ESQUIRE, :  
GEORGE J. BLASCO, ESQUIRE. :

Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1 in the Northampton County Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, September 7, 1988.

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HONORABLE ALFRED T. WILLIAMS, JR., PRESIDENT JUDGE  
HONORABLE RICHARD D. GRIFO, JUDGE  
HONORABLE MICHAEL V. FRANCIOSA, JUDGE  
HONORABLE ROBERT A. FREEDBERG, JUDGE  
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN, JUDGE  
HONORABLE F. P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN, JUDGE  
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JUDGE WILLIAMS: The Court en banc is specially convened this morning to recognize those members of this bar who have passed away during the last year. The Court recognizes the President of the Northampton County Bar Association, Charles Peischl.

MR. PEISCHL: May it please the Court, Your Honors, ladies and gentlemen. We are here this morning to remember, to eulogize and to honor the members of the Northampton County Bar Association who have passed away during the last year.

There are six of our colleagues who have died during that time. Those six are Ralph W. Barthold, who died on October 23, 1987; Wainwright E. H. Diehl, who died on December 22nd, 1987; Robert Ungerleider, who passed away on April 6th, 1988; Russell Kowalyshyn, who died on April 17, 1988; Daniel F. Joella, who died on May 16, 1988; and George J. Blasco, who passed away on May 26, 1988.

The purpose of this morning's memorial service is to remember and to pay a final tribute to our deceased colleagues. In offering this final tribute, we are recalling as a profession what each of these colleagues has contributed to a mutual calling and to the general public it has served. In eulogizing these six individuals, we are paying our respects to their assembled family members and thanking them for the support that they gave to their husband, their father, their son or brother during his years of practice. In a much broader sense, we are recognizing and celebrating the richness of their lives and their unique and varied careers, talents and interests which make our profession and also the individual and collective associations within it so meaningful.

On behalf of the Northampton County Bar Association, I want to thank our judges for setting aside this specially designated time this morning for this memorial service and for your full participation in it. I want to acknowledge, welcome and pay our respects as the Bar Association to the families and the friends who are here today, and I want to thank the six members of our Bar Association who are serving this morning as eulogists. Those six individuals are the Honorable Carleton T. Woodring, Keene Jabbour, Edward G. Ruyak, Frank W. Yandrisevits, Morris Mindlin, and Lorenzo W. Crowe, Jr.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: The Court recognizes Frank W. Yandrisevits, Esquire.

MR. YANDRISEVITS: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the Court. Russell Kowalyshyn was a very quiet and private man. In my ten year association with him, I was constantly surprised by new aspects of his past life that I had never known about before. I was surprised to find out that as a young man he was an accomplished violinist. I was equally surprised to find out as a young man he was the starting catcher on the Northampton Legion baseball team. In fact, I think the more I found out about Russell Kowalyshyn, the more I realize that he had the talent and the ability to be just about anything that he wanted to be.

That caused me to ask myself on more than one occasion, with that type of talent and ability to choose your career, why would such a private person choose a dual career of lawyer/legislator which would involve such public scrutiny and such public activity? And I think the answer to that question can probably be found in a speech that Russell made on the floor of the House near the end of his career, a speech again which revealed an aspect of his past life when to his colleagues — that I don't think any of them were aware of before — was during the debate remembering the Holocaust when Russell rose and told about his experiences as a second lieutenant with the United States Army. Russ told the assembled House about when walking through a concentration camp and finding almost lifeless bodies being liberated, those people looked up and said a single word, America.

Russ went on to remind his colleagues on the floor that those people weren't saying America because those were American troops that were liberating them, but they were saying America because to them and to the rest of the world, America is the epitome of freedom and that our system of government is the best system of government in the world.

I think I was privileged to hear that speech because it gave me insight into why Russ chose the careers that he chose. By becoming a lawyer on his return from Europe, Russ had the opportunity to participate directly in our judicial system, which is one of the three branches of our government; and later by becoming a legislator, he had an opportunity to participate more fully in the legislative branch of our government.

And basically, when you look at Russ's life, I think his entire life was simply a celebration of our system of government which he truly believed in and in which he strove to fully serve, and I think that also brings to mind a facet of Russ Kowalyshyn that I would like known for people of today, that in choosing the fields of attorney and legislator, he truly chose to serve the people that came to him for help, whether they be clients or constituents.

So I think as I remember Russ Kowalyshyn's life, I'll remember Russ as a man of multi talents who chose to use those talents to serve people who needed help and to serve as an example not only to his brothers and sisters who followed him into varied careers from doctor to engineer, but also to his nieces and nephews and to all the people that he came in contact with, and I count myself privileged to be one of those people.

Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: The Court appreciates very much the efforts of each of the eulogists as well as the members of the bar who are with us today. Judge Grifo will speak on behalf of the Court.

JUDGE GRIFO: President Judge Williams, my colleagues on the bench, members of the Northampton County Bar Association, and family and friends of Ralph W. Barthold, Wainwright E. H. Diehl, Robert Ungerleider, Russell Kowalyshyn, Daniel F. Joella and George J. Blasco.

Once again, it is my melancholy duty, yet privilege, to represent the bench in paying tribute to the deceased members of our bar. Although I am honored to have been selected by President Judge Williams to speak on behalf of this Court on this, the occasion of memorializing the passing of our deceased members, I must confess humbly and candidly that I do so with diffidence and with a sense of total inadequacy.

How does a Court, as opposed to a Bar Association, do justice to closing the final chapter in the book of the lives of these men? 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 in the resolutions that have been prepared and offered for adoption by the members of the bar composed of their intimate associates. The Court is grateful for these appropriate and deserved tributes. We concur and join in the sentiments expressed; and we, of course, will not repeat what has been so well said by their associates.

My duty requires me to go beyond the content of the resolutions. I must memorialize with the annals of the history of our County Court, the contributions these men have made as sworn officers of this Court and as advocates in this, our judicial forum.

Ralph W. Barthold took his oath of office in the well of this very room on November the 11, 1935.

Bob Ungerleider took his oath of office in the well of this courtroom on July 1st of 1940.

Russell Kowalyshyn took his oath of office in the well of this courtroom on December 3rd, 1951.

Daniel Joella took his oath of office in the well of this courtroom on the 13th day of December of 1954.

Wainwright Diehl took his oath of office in the well of this room on the 6th of February, 1956.

George Blasco took his oath of office in the well of this courtroom on the 16th day of May of 1980.

That familiar ancient oath that reads as follows: I do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the

Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity as well as to the Court and as well as to the client, that I will use no falsehood nor delay the cause of any person for lucre or malice.

Each of them fulfilled that oath and did that with distinction, bringing credit and honor not only to the bar of this County but also to this Court; and not to be overlooked, to the credit and honor of the bar associations and courts across this state and nation. What more can any person do than to bring credit and honor to his profession? Especially in this day when all professions are under such close scrutiny by the public and by the world. As a Court, we salute them and memorialize in the annals of our history their accomplishments. I knew each of the deceased members well and was in this very courtroom as a lawyer when four of the six took their oath as lawyers.

The list of those to be honored this morning is a long one. It includes some whose careers were ended early and some whose careers were long and active. It includes trial lawyers who loved the arena and excitement and drama of a jury trial, who were involved in significant civil and criminal litigation, as well as solicitors; in the English sense, who preferred an office practice representing and involved with business, real estate and estates. Their number includes a wide variety of government services as legal advisors, as well as an outstanding record of voluntary service on the boards of a multitude of community agencies and educational institutions, but they shared a common pride and goal, and that was remembering the oath that they took and being a good lawyer.

The Court is proud to record our admiration and deepest respect for each of them. Each had his own special claim to the affection and esteem of the judges of this Court as well as the lawyers of this county as well as the citizens.

The judges of this Court feel a deep sense of sorrow and loss, but there is a measure of consolation in the knowledge that theirs were useful and active lives. Their records stand unblemished and will forever bring honor to them, to their families and to this Court which they served with fidelity and unflinching devotion.

In recognition of the distinguished careers of Ralph W. Barthold, Robert Ungerleider, Russell Kowalyshyn, Daniel Joella, Wainwright E. H. Diehl and George Blasco, the resolutions presented by the several committees of the Bar Association are unanimously adopted. The record of these proceedings is ordered transcribed and filed and made a part of the Court Minutes of this Court. Copies thereof shall be sent to the families of each of our deceased brethren.

This Court now stands recessed in honor and out of the deep respect for Ralph W. Barthold, Robert Ungerleider, Russell Kowalyshyn, Daniel Joella, Wainwright E. H. Diehl and George Blasco; and when the Court adjourns this day, it will do so in honor of these distinguished members of our bar.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, Judge Grifo. Court will stand in recess so we might meet the members of the families who are with us today.

(Memorial service concluded.)