

In Re: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR:

CREGG E. MAYROSH

ROBERT S. TAYLOR, JR.

RENALD S. BARATTA

Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1 in the Northampton County Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania on October 4, 1994.

HONORABLE ROBERT A. FREEDBERG, PRESIDENT JUDGE
HONORABLE JAMES C. HOGAN
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN
HONORABLE F. P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN
HONORABLE ROBERT E. SIMPSON, JR.
HONORABLE JACK A. PANELLA

JUDGE FREEDBERG: Good morning. We are about to convene the Annual Memorial Service of the Court of Common Pleas. And for that purpose I recognize William K. Murphy, President of the Northampton County Bar Association.

MR. MURPHY: Thank you, Your Honor.

May it please the Court, members of the Northampton County Bar Association, family and friends of our deceased members. We convene this morning to remember and eulogize three of our colleagues; Cregg E. Mayrosh, Esquire, who died on September 28, 1993; Renald S. Baratta, Esquire, who died on July 11, 1994; Robert S. Taylor, Jr., Esquire, who died on October 21, 1993.

It may be said that to pursue and succeed in one's chosen profession is a noble deed; but for one to surpass the exacting standards of their professions is to fulfill a greater cause and to raise the level of excellence for those who follow. We honor such persons this morning.

This is a solemn time in the life of our Association, but also one of celebration of the deeds and accomplishments of our colleagues. The storied careers of the members of our Association help form and shape not only our history but also our lives, as well.

Our rich history and heritage are exemplified in the memory of our deceased colleagues. We must never forget the great responsibility which is placed upon us to respect and protect the rights of one another and exhibit compassion, understanding and tolerance.

This commemoration is a tradition which is unique to most professions. It is a time to say, "thank you" and "well done." It is the acknowledgment of a practice of trust, respect and integrity. Our colleagues took an oath of fidelity

and promised to uphold the trust of their clients as that of an unwritten, binding covenant.

This then is the calling as heard by those whom we commemorate today and whose legacy has now passed to their successors.

On behalf of the Northampton County Bar Association, I thank the Judges of our Court for specially designating this morning for the Memorial Service and for the Court's participation.

I thank the eulogists who will participate in this morning's ceremony, Judge Richard D. Grifo, Judge Jack A. Panella and Walter Peters, Esquire.

I respectfully request that the Court recognize the eulogists beginning with Judge Grifo.

Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: Judge Grifo.

JUDGE GRIFO: May it please the Court, Your Honor, President Judge Freedberg, members of this Court specially convened for the purpose of eulogizing our deceased members of the Bar and family and friends of Cregg E. Mayrosh, Esquire, deceased.

It is fitting and appropriate that the Court and this Bar Association continue this time-honored tradition of memorializing the deceased members of this Court and this Association. Today it is my melancholy yet privileged duty as a member of this Association and as a Senior Judge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to eulogize Cregg E. Mayrosh, Esquire, one of its distinguished members, who left this life on the 28th day of September, 1993.

The Bars of the Court of the United States, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Northampton County have lost a capable and brilliant advocate of the law. His career and his achievements were extraordinary. He was truly a competent and dedicated lawyer.

Permit me to place into the annals of the history of this Court his curriculum vitae.

Cregg was born on the 20th day of December, 1946 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the son of John and Jessie Mayrosh.

He attended the Easton Area High School and graduated in 1964. He matriculated at Lafayette College in September of 1964, was inducted as a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity in 1965 and was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in June of 1968. He entered the Syracuse University College of Law in 1968, was appointed to the Board of Law Review in 1969, and was graduated in 1971 with a J.D. degree. That same year he was appointed as law clerk of the Bench of Northampton County, and on May 22, 1972, he was admitted for the general practice of law to the Bar of this County. In the same year he was admitted to practice before the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In 1981, he was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eastern District.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Northampton County Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Cregg, following his clerkship as my law clerk, assigned to me by the then President Judge, Clinton Budd Palmer, entered into the active practice of law and was a partner in the law firm of Cohn and Mayrosh until his untimely death in 1993.

He served as a member of the District Attorney's staff from 1976 to 1979. He was solicitor to the Domestic Relations Section of our Court. He was solicitor for the Lower Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors, Lower Nazareth Township Planning Commission and the Nancy Run Fire Company.

His partner of 20 years, Leonard S. Cohn, Esquire, of this Bar said to me upon Cregg's passing; "Cregg was the most ideal choice as an associate and as a partner. In my opinion, he was at the time the best young attorney at the Northampton County Bar. Highly intelligent, eager to learn and possessed of an insatiable curiosity, he was amiable, a good companion, with a great sense of humor at all times. I was so impressed with Cregg's ability that he became a partner after only one year in the office. Our partnership was quite unique, in twenty years there was not one single argument or disagreement. In his usual capable manner, Cregg handled all litigation and criminal matters in the firm and never objected to working ten and twelve hour days."

Personally, as my law clerk, I recall fondly the time that he spent with me. He was always available at all hours of the day and all hours of the evening at times and even attempted, when I resisted, to become not only my law clerk but the person to do my many tasks and it was always wonderful to watch Cregg try to figure out what he could do for me, his authority, not as a Judge but as a person. And I'll always remember how dedicated he was and remained. But in his legal research he was thorough and he never hesitated to disagree with me and my interpretation and application of the law. He performed his duties brilliantly and capably. I was fortunate to have him on my staff.

As my solicitor when I was the administrative Judge in the Domestic Relations Section, he was outstanding and was of inestimable value in those early days when we researched and implemented the use of HLA blood testing to determine paternity.

The affliction that caused his death was with him during all the years that I knew him, but he never let it interfere with his dedicated efforts to completely and properly represent his clients in and out of Court.

A lawyer of principle, knowledge, devotion and dedication to his profession has left the scene, not without, however, leaving a permanent consideration to its integrity.

I feel honored this morning to memorialize in the annals of the history of our County the contributions made by Cregg E. Mayrosh, Esquire, as a sworn officer of this Court and as an advocate in this our judicial forum.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: Thank you, Judge Grifo.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: Judge McFadden will respond for the Court.

JUDGE McFADDEN: President Judge Freedberg, colleagues on the Bench, members of the Bar Association and friends and family of Robert S. Taylor, Jr., Cregg Mayrosh and Renald Baratta.

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 last year. As a Court we are honored to have the family and friends of our deceased members with us for this memorial service.

I am honored to have been chosen by our President Judge to perform this melancholy task. However, it is with sincere frustration that I must admit to a humble feeling of inadequacy in executing the job at hand. Each of these gentlemen touched the lives and practices of so many in this County and beyond. Mere words will not fully capture the impact they had upon us, nor will those words evoke the panoply of memories of them each of us possesses.

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 of them fulfilled that oath with distinction.

We are here today to pay tribute to those brethren whose careers were felled midstream, as well as those who were in the sunset of long and active lives. Today's list includes a former law clerk to this Court, an Assistant District Attorney, Cregg Mayrosh. Renald Baratta was a prominent criminal defense attorney whose frequent trial battles assured him legendary status at our Bar. These gentlemen loved the arena and the excitement of a jury trial and were involved frequently in significant civil and criminal litigation. Robert S. Taylor, Jr. was a true solicitor in the English sense, whose office practice involved business, real estate and estate work. He continued the practice in Bethlehem established by his father. Each was active on the boards of many community agencies, educational institutions and volunteer service groups. While their practices were divergent, their goal was universal—to be a good lawyer.

They each had a special claim to the regard, esteem and affection of the Judges and lawyers of this County.

As a Court, we feel a deep sense of loss and sorrow. We may all be consoled by the knowledge that theirs were useful and active lives dedicated to the law.

The memorial committees have admirably recounted the accomplishments and the record of the public service of these gentlemen. We are indebted to them and concur and join in the sentiments so well expressed.

We express our deep sense of sorrow and loss to the families of our deceased brethren. Their records remain unblemished and will continue to bring honor to them, to their families and to the Courts they served with fidelity and devotion.

In recognition of the distinguished careers of Robert S. Taylor, Jr., Cregg Mayrosh and Renald Baratta, 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 colleagues.

The Court will stand adjourned in honor of and out of deep respect for Robert S. Taylor, Jr., Cregg Mayrosh and Renald Baratta.

The Bar Association invites all in attendance today to a reception in the jury lounge on the first floor of this Courthouse.

Argument Court will convene in Courtroom Number 3 immediately following this service.

Thank you.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: We are in recess.

(CONCLUDED.)