

**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.

WILLIAM C. RYBAK: Good morning.

Members of the Bench of Northampton County, Mrs. Elias Spengler, children and grandchildren of Elias Spengler, my colleagues at the Bar and friends:

We come together today, not to mourn a death, but to celebrate a life. A life that has touched each of us — perhaps only in a small way, but always unforgettably.

If asked to choose one word that best describes Elias Spengler, "Dynamic," comes to my mind.

Dynamic in the sense that his life was a collage of family, profession and community. Often to the amazement of those who knew him, Elias managed to combine these seemingly individual elements into a truly fulfilling — if hectic — lifetime.

The Elias that I knew best was not only a good friend and a true professional, but a beautiful human being. For years we had been colleagues and fellow members of the Northampton County Bar Association. Although our careers took slightly different paths, he never failed to stir my deepest admiration and respect.

Early on, Elias became known among his peers as a kind-hearted and honest country lawyer, committed to the highest ideals and principles of his profession. The doors of his practice were open to anyone needing legal advice, and it was not uncommon for him to render his services free of charge. House calls were often the norm for Elias — particularly among the elderly, who enjoyed his spirited conversations in Pennsylvania Dutch.

As a District Attorney for Northampton County in the 1950's, Elias earned a reputation as a prosecutor, not a persecutor. And when he failed in his bid for a judicial post, our county missed its opportunity to seat a fair man of considerable talent and experience on its Bench.

There is no doubt of his commitment to his chosen vocation, but his heart was never far from home. Elias was a devoted family man. He cherished private time spent with his wife, Miriam; his daughter, Susan; his sons, Daniel and James; and his grandchildren. His pride in his family was always in evidence, and any conversation with him eventually would turn to a latest familial achievement or anecdote. He was especially proud when his son, Daniel, became a lawyer and followed his footsteps in his practice and then became one of the Assistant District Attorneys of Northampton County. In turn, his family became a pillar for Elias, giving him strength and support in all his personal and professional endeavors.

Of course, any reflections on his life would be incomplete without some mention of his service to the community and his country. His sense of civic obligation surfaced early, when he postponed his flourishing career to enlist with the Army Air Force, serving in Panama during World War II and eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

Later, Elias would become active in both the Lions Club and the Masonic Lodge. A faithful member of his church, St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Seemsville, he volunteered as a Sunday School teacher and sat on the Board of the St. Peter's Plottolders Association. And he took great pride in his position as Chairman of the Board of The First National Bank of Bath.

Elias' love for the town in which he lived and raised his family is manifest in what are perhaps his most notable civic accomplishments. He founded the Governor Wolf Historic Society in Bath, spearheading the restoration of Wolf Academy. He also was instrumental in persuading community leaders to

preserve the old log cabin that has become a historic centerpiece for the town. Both of these structures stand today as testaments to the life and work of the one man most influential in their preservation.

Today, perhaps I have stirred in each of you some particularly fond reminiscence of Elias Spengler. We all have some special tale — be it amusing or poignant — that endeared Elias to us. For Elias, I ask that you carry that memory with you, in your minds and your hearts. In that way, although he is no longer among us in body, he will always be with us in spirit.

Elias, my friend, you are an inspiration to us all. You are a great man and a gentleman.

God be with you.

If the Court please, at the conclusion of today's session we would move the Court to adjourn in memory of Elias W. Spengler, late of the Bar of Northampton County, and the other members who are being memorialized here today.

Thank you.

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Rybak.

Attorney Hemstreet

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 Broecker, 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 Broecker, 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.
