

RAYMOND C. WEBER

Remarks by Frank S. Poswistilo

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, members of the family, friends of Raymond C. Weber, fellow members of the Bar, and guests:

We are here this day to pay tribute to the memory of a modest, quiet man, a man small in stature, but paradoxically, a man who was extravagant, exuberant, and a giant in the qualities one admires. He had a pleasing and friendly personality and a deep concern for his fellow human beings. We are here today to honor the memory of Raymond C. Weber who died on December 9, 1981 at the age of 79 years.

Raymond Charles Weber was born on September 1, 1902, one of six children of Joseph and Anna Stacer Weber, on the south side of Easton where he maintained his home until August, 1978, when he became a guest at the Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem. He was educated in the parochial and public schools of Easton, was graduated from George Washington University in 1926 and received a Master of Arts degree from that University in 1929. During the same year, he was graduated from Georgetown University School of Law, became a member of the District of Columbia Bar and, subsequently, was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar on April 14, 1930. During his first year after being admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, he was associated with the Philadelphia law firm of Conlen, LeBrum & Beachwood. In 1931, he commenced his practice in Easton as an associate of the late Charles P. Maxwell, Esquire, in an office in what is now the First National Bank Building at 4th & Northampton Streets. His association with Mr. Maxwell continued for a period of over 40 years.

Raymond C. Weber was a meticulous practitioner -- one who was deeply concerned with the ethics of the profession and the rights of his clients, whom he served unstintingly. Although his clients included one of the most active Savings and Loan Associations in the Valley and many affluent people, all of his clients, irrespective of their stations in life, in the eyes of the world, and, whether their matters were large or small, were treated with equal dedication. And *de bona* work was no stranger in his office.

Ray served as an Assistant District Attorney from 1932 to 1936 during the administration of the late Herbert C. Laub, Esquire, later Judge Laub, and he served as solicitor of the Easton School District from 1947 to 1952. For a period of 30 years, from 1947 to 1977, he served as solicitor to the Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association. During those years, that Association grew from a one-floor operation known as the West Ward Building and Loan Association on South 4th Street in Easton to a modern building on 3rd Street known as the Easton Federal Savings and Loan Association, and finally, to the present Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association, with assets of more than \$150,000,000.00 and multiple-story office buildings in Easton and Bethlehem, with numerous branches throughout the Valley. When, in 1977, Mr. Weber resigned as solicitor for the Association because of his disabling bout with arthritis, the Association passed a resolution which read, in part, as follows: "... during these thirty years he has earned the respect not only of the Directors, Officers and Staff of Valley Federal Savings, but also the community and his legal associates...."

His expertise in Savings and Loan Association law, real estate law, and orphans' court proceedings, was known throughout the community and was respected by his colleagues at the Bar.

Mr. Weber's arthritic condition grew progressively worse and, during the last year before closing his office in 1978, he practiced from his home on a limited basis, completing unfinished business. In August, 1978, he became a guest at the Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem.

Attorney Robertson Taylor and I had the privilege in 1980 to represent the Northampton County Bar Association in presenting to Mr. Weber a token of its esteem in recognition of his 50 years as an officer of this Court. Robbie and I made the presentation at Holy Family Manor. Ray was confined to his bed and his voice was barely audible; however, what he could not express by his voice was related to us by the joy and appreciation reflected in his eyes and on his face. Although during his last year at Holy Family Manor he was practically bedfast, his mind remained keen; he followed the TV news, the local and national elections, sports, and especially golf.

In his day, Ray was an avid, proficient golfer. During his army career from 1943 to 1946, Ray was in the Judge Advocate General's Department. He was discharged as a Major. For most of those years, he was assigned to Central-Pacific Headquarters and, from 1944-1945, was stationed in Hawaii as Staff Judge Advocate and Provost Judge. Ray had

some concern while he was in Hawaii for, as the war went on it became obvious to him that the reason for his transfer to Hawaii had nothing to do with his legal ability but was because of his golfing ability. Hawaii had become the vacation spot for the top brass of the service and, on many occasions, Ray was called to be part of a foursome. Although at first he was reluctant, and he found it offensive to play for money, he finally resigned himself to taking the substantial winnings gained because of his expertise with the club. Among the top echelon of the service, one of the goals was to get leave to Hawaii to play golf with Raymond C. Weber. He was an excellent golfer. In fact, prior to entering the service, he had been a member of Harker's Hollow Golf Club in Phillipsburg and had won its first golf championship in 1931. Upon his return from the service, he became a member of the Country Club of Northampton County and had the distinction of making a hole-in-one on hole no. 6 in 1956.

As a young lawyer, I first met Mr. Weber in the mid-50's when one of my few clients at the time was purchasing a south side property from one of Mr. Weber's clients. In the course of the title search, I discovered that the house we thought we were buying was on a lot owned by the people next door and the house in which the people next door were living was on the lot owned by Mr. Weber's client, the proposed seller. Obviously, Mr. Weber had not represented the seller when the property was purchased for, I assure you, such a mistake could not have occurred under his careful practice.

Nevertheless, as a result of that transaction and our endeavor to straighten out the matter, Mr. Weber and I became close friends. During the early years of my practice, he gave me immeasurable assistance by supplying me with the overflow of his title work and orphans' court work. He helped not only me but many other young lawyers in the same position. As I stated, we became close friends. When our first child was born, Ray was there with a gift, and, as each subsequent child was born, Ray remembered the occasion. Each Christmas, he sent gifts to our household. Those remembrances on the part of Ray continued until his final days at Holy Family Manor. He was a very generous man.

Although he never married, Ray enjoyed children and family life. I understand that for many years he would rent a place at the shore and would entertain, for weeks at a time, his various nieces and nephews. That generosity was not limited to family. He extended it to acquaintances and friends, as well. I remember a young clerk in this Courthouse who, together with her husband and two children, was often the recipient of weekends at the shore as a guest of Ray.

Mr. Weber was a lifetime member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in South Easton. His pastor, Father Vandergeest, who is with us here today, has told me of Ray's generosity to the church. In fact, when Father was a young pastor [and I won't say how many years ago that was] and first came to St. Joseph's, he would indicate to his congregation that certain items were needed for the church or the rectory. He would discover to his amazement, the next day, that a check would be there from Raymond C. Weber to pay for the item. This did not occur only once; it occurred with such frequency that Father Vandergeest was almost embarrassed to relate to the congregation that anything was needed, for he knew that, invariably, it would be supplied by Mr. Weber. His generosity was not limited to the physical requirements of any institution. From my experience over the years as a solicitor for the fund-raising activities of the American Cancer Society, the United Fund, and the Catholic Charities Appeal, I know personally that Ray was a generous participant in society's attempts to clothe the naked and feed the poor. He was a man who did not flaunt his religion. He was a quiet follower of his God, loyal to his church and to its teachings.

Yes, Raymond C. Weber was an extraordinary man, a passionate lover of the law, of his family, and of his church. In his passing, I lost a personal friend; his family lost a loving brother and uncle; the Court and Bar lost a meticulous lawyer and colleague; and the community, a generous and compassionate citizen. The loss is immediate, but when one takes an over-all view of life, more impressive is the enrichment each of us has received by the presence among us during our lifetimes of Raymond C. Weber, a truly Christian gentleman.

With the permission of the Court, the committee of the Northampton County Bar Association, composed of Attorney John Oldt and me, respectfully offers the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the foregoing remarks and this Resolution be entered on the Minutes of this Court and copies thereof be sent to Mr. Weber's surviving sister and brothers, to wit: Mrs. Helen Dowling and Messrs. Edward Weber and Stanley Weber, and that when Court adjourns this date, it does so out of respect for the memory of Raymond C. Weber."

Remarks by The Honorable Richard D. Grifo

President Judge Williams, my Colleagues on the Bench, Members of the Northampton County Bar Association, and Family of Raymond C. Weber, Esq., Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Court joins, accepts, and approves the Eulogy of Mr. Frank S. Poswistilo, Esq., Chairman of the Raymond C. Weber Eulogy Committee.

The Resolution submitted by Mr. Poswistilo on behalf of the Northampton County Bar Association is unanimously approved and adopted. The Court Reporter is directed to transcribe the proceedings, and the Court directs that they be made a part of the permanent records of this Court.

Those of us who have known Raymond C. Weber have enjoyed a great privilege; and in his passing, this Bar and the legal profession suffer a great loss - a lawyer of principle, knowledge, devotion and dedication has left it, not without, however, leaving a permanent contribution to its integrity and to its continuation.

The Committee has ably recounted his contributions as a lawyer and as a citizen. They need no repetition. I add, only, a personal touch. I recall meeting Mr. Weber in 1936, when as President of the class, I called on Mr. Weber, at the suggestion of Mr. Maxwell, to participate in the graduation exercises. We became good friends from that day on. His support and advice during my years at Lafayette and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, carried me through many difficult days, occasioned by the great depression of the 30's and the war that followed. My wife and I, and my 3 daughters, cherish the "Bone China" cups and saucers filled with flowers, delivered to the hospital the day after each of our children were born.

Ray was a very special kind of a person, dedicated to his family, his friends, his church and his community, and in the 45 years that I was privileged to know him, I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone.

He was a man of superlative high service, complete and thorough integrity, and unlimited enthusiasm for whatever task he took in hand. He was a serious man, but his seriousness was always tempered with humor and candor.

He was a general practitioner of the law in the truest sense of those words. His practice brought him in close and intimate contact with his clients. They soon learned that he was one to whom they could give their trust and confidence. Much of his practice was performed in the living room of his clients, where they were comfortable, carrying out his duties as a lawyer.

In his death, the Bar, the legal profession, his many friends, and the community at large, have lost a just and wise citizen, a true and devoted friend, and one whose place and role will be hard to fill.

When this Court adjourns this day, it shall do so in memory and honor of our departed Colleague.

April 26, 1982.