

THE DAILY RECORD

WESTERN NEW YORK'S SOURCE FOR LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

MCBAPRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remembering our departed colleagues, friends

Last Friday, the Monroe County Bar Association conducted its annual memorial service for attorneys who had passed away over the last year.

It was presided over by the Hon. Harold Galloway and was conducted by our memorial committee, chaired by Kelly Bartus. The service was incredibly poignant and moving. We were honored to be joined by so many members of our judiciary.

Several family members who spoke to me after the service expressed how much it meant to them to have their family member honored by the bench and bar through this service.

If you have never attended the service, you have missed a real opportunity to honor the memory of our deceased brother and sister attorneys. A short memorial remembrance is read for each of the attorneys. They are prepared by colleagues, family members or members of the memorial committee.

At the end of the service the memorial remembrances are received by the court as part of its records, and copies of the remembrances are provided to all of the families.

Each told the story of an individual attorney and his or her background, career in the law, and life in the broader community. While each was in and of itself a moving tribute to the deceased attorney, I was struck by the extent of cumulative loss that our bar and community has suffered with the passing of these 30 attorneys:

- Mitchell T. Williams
- Nancy Dillman Peck
- David C. Reid
- Samuel B. Dattilo
- Anthony T. Micros
- Morris Gardner
- Walter C. Eves
- Herbert Roisman



By BRYAN D. HETHERINGTON
Daily Record
Columnist

- Charles E. Strobel
- Charles G. Porreca
- Cary P. Grant
- John Francis Redmond
- Thomas J. Derleth
- David M. Levy
- Russell I. Zuckerman
- A. Terry VanHouten
- William W. Bell
- Andrew M. Greenstein
- Harold C. Bayer
- Richard S. LoMonaco
- B. Robert Rosenberg
- John P. Schaefer
- Mark H. Klafehn
- Allen J. Zaretsky
- George E. Schmergel
- Irving L. Kessler
- Neil F. Bubel
- Sergeant W. Wise
- Robert J. Edelman
- Eric J. Metzler

In addition to their contributions to their families and often their law firms, most of the memorial remembrances also spoke to how the attorney had contributed to our community through voluntary action.

The contributions to the community by this group of attorneys covered a wide range of activities: service to their worshiping communities, service to their country, service to not-for-profit organizations — often in leadership roles, service to professional organizations, and service to the bar as teachers and mentors of other attorneys.

Two served as presidents of bar associations: Mitch Williams, who served as president of the Monroe County Bar Association; and Nancy Peck, who served as president of the Greater

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Rochester Association for Women Attorneys, an organization that she helped found.

Of course, we cannot replace these 30 attorneys. But we can learn from them, emulate them, and step up to do the types of good that they were doing for the community and the profession. You can learn more about their lives and their contributions by visiting the MCBA website (www.mcba.org) where the memorials are posted.

In reading the memorials, I am sure you can find at least one of these attorneys who was active doing something that you would have the skills to do and that would provide you with the sense of satisfaction that it provided to our deceased brother or sister attorney.

We all owe a real debt of thanks to the members of the Memorial Committee for the incredible gift that they provide to the families of our deceased attorneys, their friends and colleagues, and to our bar generally by planning and conducting such a meaningful service. They and the MCBA staff who support the effort so well remind us that being a lawyer is not just a job, but instead is a profession where we are not competitors but colleagues at the bar.

Wouldn't it be terrific if we remembered and acted on that understanding every day, not just one day a year?

Bryan D. Hetherington is president of the Monroe County Bar Association. He is Chief Counsel of the Empire Justice Center, located in the Telesca Center for Justice. He can be reached at bhetherington@empirejustice.org.