

**GEORGE W. GEKAS, ESQUIRE
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Presented in Special Session of the
Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
August 3, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE COURT, our colleagues at the Bar, and family and friends here today to celebrate the life of our colleague and dear friend – **George W. Gekas**

George W. Gekas was born on April 14, 1930, the eldest child of the late William G. and Mary Touloumes Gekas. This Saga actually begins twenty (20) years earlier around 1910. William Gekas and my father, Frank Nicholas, were 15 or so years of age having both been sent to this Country by their parents to find a better life. They met in Hagerstown and became close friends, living together and working odd jobs. They heard there were Greeks living in a town called Harrisburg, about 75 miles north. They somehow found their way to Harrisburg, found a place to live and they worked in restaurants. Unable to speak the language, they choose to work in the kitchens because they could not communicate with the customers. Not bad for two young teenagers in a new country who could not speak English. They saved their money and bought a home together. Eventually as partners, they opened their own restaurants in Harrisburg, and for the same reason, stayed and worked in the kitchens.

Bill eventually announced that he was going to marry the Mary Touloumes girl from the St. Moritz Café on Third Street. Frank responded questioning “what am I going to do?” You don’t want me living with you and Mary. I’m going back to Greece to find my own bride.

George was the first of three children born to Bill and Mary.

George a 1948 graduate of William Penn High School, and, Dickinson College in 1952. Following College, from 1953 thru 1955, George served in the United States Army and was stationed in Puerto Rico where he learned to speak Spanish, fluently. After the military, George attended and graduated from the Dickinson School of Law in 1958. Not bad for the child of Greek Immigrants.

Following law school, George went to work for Martin H. Lock, the Dauphin County District Attorney, both in his private law office, and as an Assistant District Attorney. Marty Lock died in 1965, and, George and Earl J. Melman, formed the Melman and Gekas Law firm. George was a skilled lawyer, excellent litigator in both the criminal and civil areas. The fact that he also spoke fluent Spanish and Greek attracted many clients.

In 1966, a seat became available in the 103rd Legislative District of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. George and his friends formed the “Vote for a Voice Committee” and the campaign began. George gave a new meaning to “door-to door campaigning”. George knocked on several thousand doors and beat the Republican endorsed candidate and two others to win the Republican nomination to the House. He was elected and served in the State House of Representatives for eight years.

In 1976, he ran and won the seat in the 15th Legislative District of the Pennsylvania State Senate.

His election to United States House of Representatives followed in 1983. He was elected to 8 consecutive terms. As a member of the Judiciary Committee in the House, he served during the impeachment trial of former President Bill Clinton as one of the House managers, appearing on national television during the trial.

George was married to the love of his life, Evangeline, affectionately known as Vangie Charas-Gekas.

George was a lifelong member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Camp Hill.

He was a member of the Pennsylvania and the Dauphin County Bar Associations, and many civic minded organizations including the Camp Curtin Historical Society, the Council of Christian Churches, the Police Athletic League and many other organizations.

George excelled in playing the piano and organ. He could hold his own on the tennis courts, bowling alleys and golf courses.

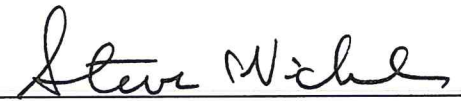
George was devoted to his family and friends, a man of integrity, faith, honor and loyalty. He quietly served his local community by playing the piano at the Bethesda Mission, for years and years, every Thanksgiving and Christmas.

George passed away Thursday, December 16, 2021.

George was a friend to many and will be missed. He was a shining example of a gentleman attorney, and epitomized the collegiality that all attorneys should work to make a part of our Profession. We will miss George.

And so, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bar Association mourns the death of George W. Gekas, and extends to his wife, Evangeline Charas-Gekas, and other family members and friends, our deepest sympathies. **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this memorial resolution be placed on the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his family.

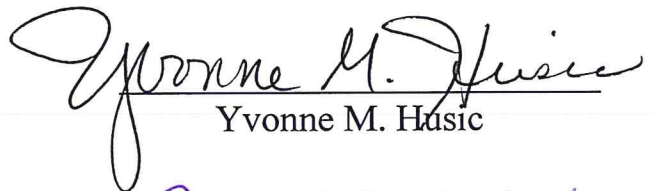
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by the Memorial Committee on the death of George W. Gekas, this 3rd day of August, 2022.



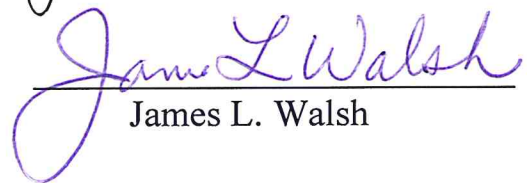
Steve C. Nicholas



Robert B. Lieberman



Yvonne M. Husic



James L. Walsh