

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
THE HONORABLE WARREN G. MORGAN

He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age,
Doing, in the figure of a man, the feats of a lion.
William Shakespeare

A picture of President Judge Warren G. Morgan, a child of the Great Depression and a man of the Greatest Generation, should forever appear next to this quote from Shakespeare. For he embodied all of that. Shakespeare envisioned Judge Morgan’s life: he was beyond the promise of his age; he was a man who performed the feats of a lion.

Warren G. Morgan passed away on January 6, 2022 at the age of 98. He was born on December 3, 1923 in Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Both his father and grandfather were coal miners. He was an excellent student and played high school football. Not just an athlete, he was also accomplished in oratory and dramatics.

In 1941, Judge Morgan’s high school football coach became head coach at Dickinson College and, as Judge Morgan put it, “took me with him to Dickinson.”

In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific. In June of 1946 he returned to Dickinson College and entered the Dickinson School of Law in 1947, graduating with a J.D. in 1949.

Judge Morgan recounted that he thought about being a lawyer all of his life. “It was the noblest of professions,” he said, and as we all know he added a great deal of nobility to our profession.

Upon graduation, Dean Walter Harrison Hitchler, the revered Dean of the law school, recommended Judge Morgan to the law firm of Shelly and Reynolds, a firm headed by then District

Attorney Carl Shelly. William Lipsitt was an associate attorney at that time and he and Judge Morgan began a friendship which lasted for the rest of their lives, including their many years as judges on the Dauphin County Bench.

During the next ten years with the firm, Judge Morgan conducted the general practice of law and served as Counsel to the Majority Leader of the Senate.

Following his tenure with Shelly and Reynolds, Judge Morgan opened his own law office with partner David Kohn. During that time, he tried cases and was Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and chaired the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Statutory Law Committee. He was also President of the Pennsylvania Young Lawyers Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and served on the Committee on Sentencing Guidelines.

In the early 1970's the political lens changed and as a result Governor Raymond Shafer appointed both he and John C. Dowling to the bench in December of 1970. He and Judge Dowling ran for election in 1971 and won. In doing so, they defeated a long-time political power.

Judge Morgan served on the bench for 23 years, some of it as Administrative Judge, conducting the day-to-day business of the Courts and then as President Judge until retirement in 1993.

As Senior Judge, Judge Morgan presided over many important cases including cases involving the attempted sale of Hershey Foods and litigation involving the Milton Hershey Trust.

Judge Morgan's judicial philosophy was this: "Treat every litigant with fairness and respect because each case is extremely important to them." He demanded punctuality from attorneys and expected them to be in the courtroom fifteen minutes ahead of the scheduled time. He demanded

preparation and courtroom decorum for all attorneys. No hands in your pockets or leaning on the bar in front of him! In our many discussions he was incredulous that these simple proprieties were not part of one's makeup.

He enjoyed being with young lawyers and imparting what advice he could to help them in some way. I know that I and many other lawyers sought his advice numerous times. Sometimes I visited him just to be with him – he was like a second father to me. He was a calm man but there were times which necessitated that he speak sharply to an attorney, each time well deserved. Later he would call them to his chambers and apologize. He was such a humble and good man.

Judge Morgan enjoyed the collegiality engendered by the weekly Thursday meeting of the Roundtable. There members of the County and Federal Bench would enjoy lunch, discuss the law, and enjoy the fellowship.

He had a great wit. On one occasion, an event happened in the court room which prompted him to exclaim: “John, I don't know if this court room is the 8th Wonder of the World or a Chamber of Horrors.”

He could not understand why a lawyer would not sign his name clearly and legibly on a document. He felt it showed a lack of respect and a lack of confidence in the signer. Scott Morgan told me that he had signed some checks for his father and upon seeing them he called Scott in and said: “What kind of a signature is that – I can't read it! That's not the way to sign your name!”

Every year on Judge Morgan's birthday, the late Attorney Matt Gover and I would buy him a bottle of Imperial Whiskey. It wasn't a fancy brand of whiskey – that's what he liked. As soon as he saw us, he would say “Colonel Groznick, get the ice and the glasses.”

Before Judge Morgan moved to Florida, he took Matt Gover, his father, Ray Gover, and I to lunch. When we parted, he hugged me, told me that he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. Words cannot express how I felt at that moment and I'm sure that many of you had a similar moment like that with Judge Morgan.

Judge Morgan was a judge's judge. He was the "high bar" that every judge should strive to imitate. He was beloved among the Bench, the Bar, the community, and his family. His absence will be felt by all of us forever.

As Shakespeare said, "he did rise beyond the promise of his age – he performed as a man, the feats of a lion."

Judge Morgan survived his wife, Pauline, by nine months, and cherished their 74 years of marriage. He will be missed by his daughter, Pummy Morgan Shmokler, his son, Scott Warren Morgan, Esq., his grandchildren, Lauren Shmokler, Ryan Shmokler, Ashley Morgan Moore, Charley Morgan Emslie and Bennett Morgan, and his great-grandson, Charles Warren Moore.

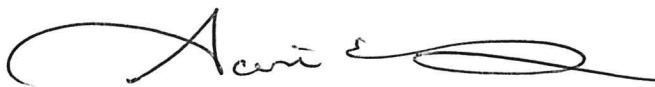
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the passing of the Honorable Warren G. Morgan, the community has lost a great jurist, a respected citizen and friend and that his family has lost a wonderful father and grandfather.

And Be It Resolved Further, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Warren G. Morgan, and extend our tender sympathy to his children and grandchildren.


And Resolved Further, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his children and family.


Respectfully Submitted

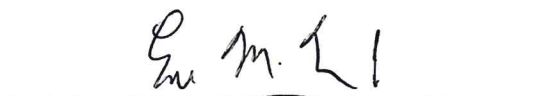

The Honorable John F. Cherry

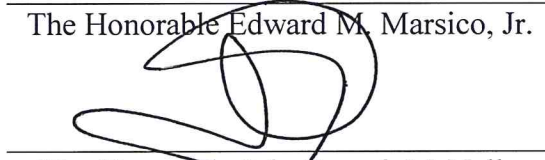

The Honorable Scott Arthur Evans

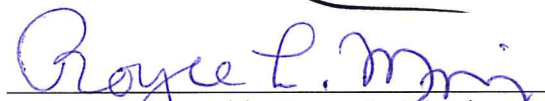

The Honorable Deborah E. Curcillo


The Honorable Andrew H. Dowling

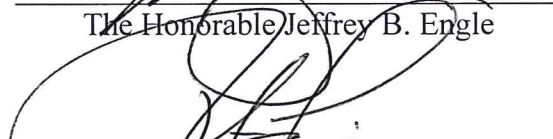

The Honorable William T. Tully


The Honorable Edward M. Marsico, Jr.


The Honorable John Joseph McNally


The Honorable Royce L. Morris


The Honorable Jeffrey B. Engle


The Honorable Richard A. Lewis