

Memorial Resolution Honoring Arthur “Art” K. Dils, Esq.

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst our beloved colleague Arthur K. Dils or Art as he was known who died on October 27, 2024, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Art was not only a respected member of the Bar, but a Dickinson School of Law graduate, and U.S. Army reservist. He was also a larger-than-life presence in every courtroom, conversation, and community gathering he attended—a man whose gregarious spirit welcomed all and whose sharp wit could pierce through tension or draw a smile from the sternest judge; and

WHEREAS, Art distinguished himself in the legal profession through zealous advocacy, unshakable ethics, and an unwavering belief in the power of the law to serve justice. He served in the Attorney General’s Office as an Assistant AG and was in private practice. He combined intellect with humor, argument with charm, and gravitas with grace; and

WHEREAS, he was loquacious in the best sense of the word—his voice an instrument of persuasion, storytelling, and laughter. Whether delivering an impassioned closing argument, offering counsel to a young lawyer, or sharing a story over coffee, Art brought language to life, and his words left an imprint not just on minds, but on hearts; and

WHEREAS, his wit was legendary—quick, clever, and disarming. He had the rare ability to defuse conflict with humor, to illuminate complex issues with an apt turn of phrase, and to lift the spirits of colleagues and clients alike. He reminded us, in a profession often weighed down by solemnity, that joy has a place in justice; and

WHEREAS, Art gave generously of his time and talents, mentoring the next generation of lawyers, serving his community with vigor, and maintaining friendships across the bench and bar. His laughter echoed in hallways and his wisdom guided many through difficult days; and

WHEREAS, in remembering Art, we recognize not only a talented attorney, but a whole-hearted human being—deeply kind, profoundly funny, and irreplaceably unique.

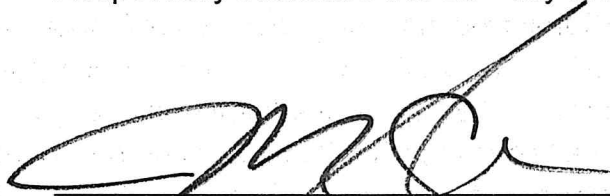
AS A FOOTNOTE, I would be remiss if I didn't share a few funny stories about Art with you from the judges. Of course, Art was always to be seen riding his bike up and down the park along Front Street. The very sight of Art on his bike would make me smile. He rode it like he was a 10 year old boy on the boardwalk at the beach for the first time. (*Demonstrate*). I don't think I had ever seen Art when he didn't leave me smiling and laughing.

Judge Cherry recounted a story about Art in front of Judge John "Jack" Dowling one criminal court session. Art was representing a fellow who was looking at doing some time in prison and Judge Cherry, "John", was an Assistant District Attorney at the time. Judge Dowling, who was known to be stern, liked Art, as did many judges. Art had a way of bemusing judges that made them receptive to his "ask." As Art made his argument for a probationary sentence, Judge Dowling scowled and said ***"I don't know why I'm agreeing to this, Mr. Dils. I'm glad you're not an encyclopedia salesman, or I'd have a full set at my house!"*** Sometime after that, John saw Art again in the Clerk's Office with three other criminal defendants in tow like little ducks. John asked, ***"are you selling encyclopedias Art?"*** Art replied without skipping a beat, ***"why yes, three sets today already!!"***

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Dauphin Bar Association and the Dauphin County Bench do hereby extend our deepest sympathy to his Wife, Diane, his family, friends, colleagues, and all who mourn his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the permanent records of this body and the Dauphin County Court, and that a copy be delivered to his family, and that we remember Art not only in moments of grief, but in the laughter of a well-told story, the zeal of a just cause, and the camaraderie of a life shared in service to the law.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of August, 2025.



Submitted by Jeffrey B. Engle, Judge