

**Resolution of the Dauphin County Bar Association
In Memory of Richard L. Placey**

WHEREAS, the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association join the legal community in commemorating the life of Richard L. Placey, who departed this life on May 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in the tradition of this Bar, without regard to age or military rank, attorneys called their fellow attorneys by their first name, we shall use Richard, as he would find that fitting and proper; and

WHEREAS, Richard was born in Steelton, Pennsylvania on July 22, 1930, the grandson of immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose legacy of perseverance and faith profoundly shaped his life and character; and

WHEREAS, Richard was a proud graduate of Catholic High School (now McDevitt) Dickinson College (B.A. 1952), and Dickinson School of Law (J.D. 1955), and began his legal career shortly after receiving his commission in the United States Navy Reserves from which he retired in 1980; and

WHEREAS, just two days after receiving his naval commission, he married his high school sweetheart, Rose Teresa Sawyer, beginning a 62-year marriage marked by genuine love, remarkable humor and patience in the raising of four children; and

WHEREAS, Richard's distinguished legal career spanned more than 60 years across eight separate decades, during which he was a founding partner in multiple Harrisburg law firms—beginning in 1958 with Shumaker and Placey, then Shumaker, Williams, and Placey, which became Shumaker, Williams, Placey, and Wright, and finally Placey & Wright; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of Bill Wright, Richard and Bill's law practice continued within the office space of Caldwell & Kearns based on a handshake, and where Richard found joy in mentoring younger attorneys and learning from them in turn until he retired in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Richard deeply valued the collegiality of the legal profession, often quoting Shakespeare on being civil to one another by saying, "do as adversaries do in law, strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends"; and

WHEREAS, Richard never spoke to his family about whom he represented or why, but on one occasion he felt compelled to explain to one of his sons why the woman who had approached them both in checkout line had exclaimed that Richard "made her the happiest woman in the world" to which he quietly whispered in his son's ear "I helped her and her husband to adopt a child."

WHEREAS, his contributions extended beyond the courtroom to include service as a founding member and past president of the St. Thomas More Society, as a longtime parishioner of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and as a dedicated leader in organizations such as the Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg, the Tri-County Association for the Blind, the Tuberculosis-Health Society, and twice president of the Dauphin County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Richard proclaimed at his first installation as Bar president that he loved his God, his family, and the law, a triad of devotion that guided his life and work with clarity, humility, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Richard wrote a personal memo outlining his funeral wishes, beginning with the words, "[t]he Lord has blessed me with a full life, extended into extra innings, giving me happiness and joy through you, your spouses and children, the people I have worked with and friends," and requested no eulogy, only a simple homily; and

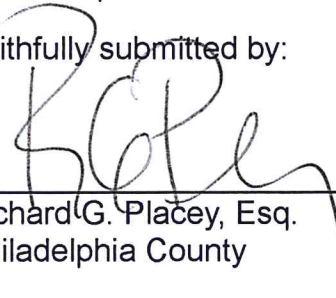
WHEREAS, Richard's faith was central to his life, and as noted by Fr. Paul Scalia at Antonin Scalia's funeral, his own father: *"We are gathered here because of one man ... That man, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth."* Richard, too, lived that truth. He cared for others and allowed others to care for him, always with gratitude; and

WHEREAS, Richard was a man of simple wisdom, great strength, true generosity, and sincere humility—qualities he did not merely possess but embodied throughout his life;

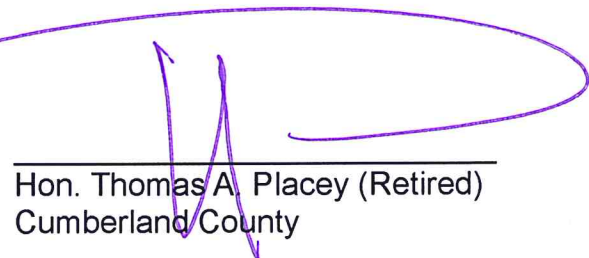
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dauphin County Bar Association formally recognizes and honors the life, legacy, and contributions of Richard L. Placey, Esq., and expresses its deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and colleagues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the permanent records of the Association and a copy be presented to the family of Richard as a token of our respect and remembrance.

Faithfully submitted by:



Richard G. Placey, Esq.
Philadelphia County



Hon. Thomas A. Placey (Retired)
Cumberland County

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025
By the Dauphin County Bar Association