

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
UPON THE DEATH OF
ROBERT NIELS TARMAN

Robert Niels Tarman was born in Harrisburg on August 19, 1946 and died in York on November 15, 2009. He was a good man, a fine lawyer and he had only friends. If there was any one he didn't like, they didn't know it.

Bob's parents predeceased him. His father was a school teacher and had published a textbook on Pennsylvania history. Thanks to his dad, on any road trip, Bob had a story about every town at every exit.

Bob graduated from Susquehanna Township High School in 1964. He earned his undergraduate degree at Shippensburg in 1968, where he distinguished himself not only as a student but also as the number one seed on the college tennis team and President of his class. He was a member of Sigma Pi fraternity and remained best friends for life with many of his brothers.

He followed his father's career path for a short time by becoming a teacher at Edison Junior High School in Harrisburg.

He changed direction by enrolling at Dickinson Law School. He graduated in 1972. After a storied six month backpack tour of Europe, which included running with bulls in Pamplona, and a short stint with the Small Business Administration doling out Hurricane Agnes recovery funds, he began his real legal career in the Dauphin County Public Defender's Office in 1975.

Bob was quickly in his element representing indigent criminal defendants. He became Josh Lock's First Assistant and when Josh resigned in 1979, Bob was appointed Chief Public Defender, a position which he held until 1985.

A masterful trial lawyer adept at cross examination and argument, Bob carved out a niche for himself trying epic murder cases and other serious felonies. He was fearless and battled the death penalty like a knight against a fire breathing dragon. He had a courtroom presence which was both casual and intense; his arguments to juries were reminiscent of Jimmy Stewart, pick any movie; people liked him and paid attention to him.

The Canon of Ethics requires that attorneys be zealous in the representation of their clients. Bob's professional zeal was also his

personal passion. He passionately represented clients who were often accused of sensational crimes. After his years in the Public Defender's Office he spent his entire career as a solo practitioner working against the formidable odds of large prosecuting and law enforcement agencies. Regardless of the challenges of the case or the personal pressures, Bob acted unfailingly with equanimity and grace.

Bob was not only a skilled and devoted litigator, but also an educator. Many younger lawyers were coached through their first jury trials in late night sessions at his kitchen table. An iconic example, he led and trained a generation of criminal defense attorneys.

He served the community in many other ways. He served on the Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Commission and helped to found and to serve on the board of the Pretrial Services Agency. Bob also served many terms on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He testified before the Legislature, spoke to community groups, and was a speaker at Lunch and Learns at the Bar Association. He was also active in the Pennsylvania Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

history. He also had a strange interest in turtles perhaps arising from his tendency to dally. This led to the nickname "Tippy Turtle." He collected various ceramic and toy turtles, making him easy to shop for. He left little gang planks in his pool so turtles could climb out. He didn't do much if any freshwater fishing despite the creek in his backyard. But he would be the first in line for a trip to the beach and an offshore charter. Stone Harbor, New Jersey was his favorite destination.

Bob died unexpectedly last fall as the result of a difficult illness. He is mourned not only by those of us who were friends and colleagues, but also by his brother Jim and sister in law Mary Ellen, his twin sister Betty and her sons, Scott and Denny and Chris, and by his wife Ruth.

Bob had an engaging openness and honesty, an easygoing, unaffected personality distinguished by level-headed thought, plain speech, a wry, mischievous sense of humor, a quiet, dependable sense of goodwill, and a spirit which moved always toward kindness. He had an exceptional gift for simplicity of heart. His life brightened all of ours.

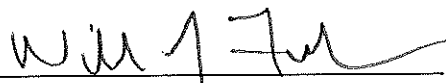
Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Robert Niels Tarman, we have all lost a good lawyer, citizen and friend.

And resolved further, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Robert Niels Tarman, and tender our sympathy and condolences to his family and other friends in the community and his clients.


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

Respectfully submitted,

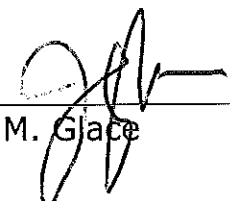
Dated: May 19, 2010



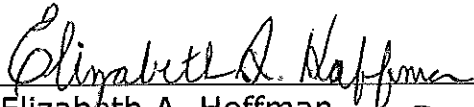
William J. Fulton, Chair




William A. Fetterhoff



John M. Glace


Elizabeth A. Hoffman


Joshua D. Lock