

THOMAS CHARLES RAUP 1938 - 2016

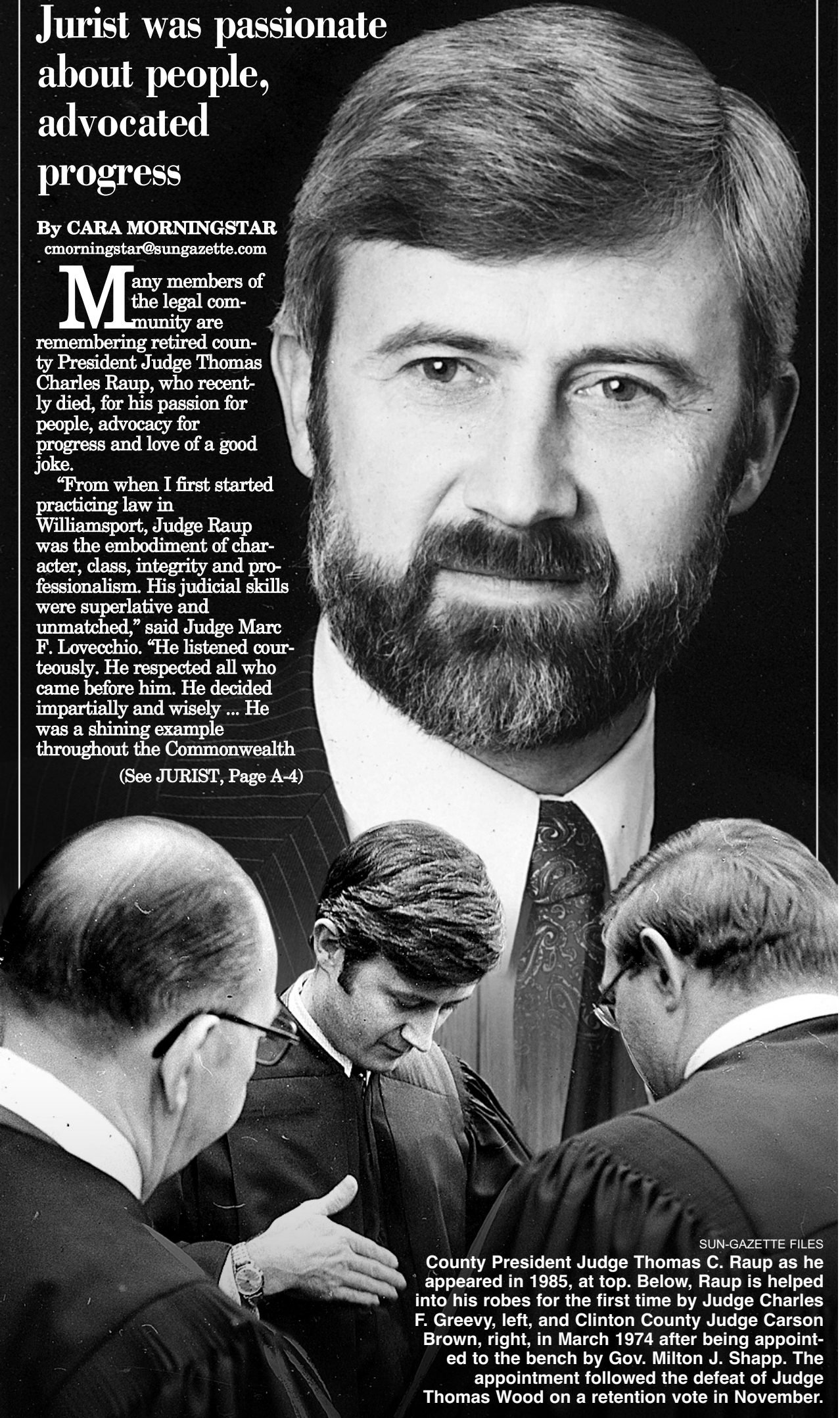
Jurist was passionate
about people,
advocated
progress

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Many members of the legal community are remembering retired county President Judge Thomas Charles Raup, who recently died, for his passion for people, advocacy for progress and love of a good joke.

"From when I first started practicing law in Williamsport, Judge Raup was the embodiment of character, class, integrity and professionalism. His judicial skills were superlative and unmatched," said Judge Marc F. Lovecchio. "He listened courteously. He respected all who came before him. He decided impartially and wisely ... He was a shining example throughout the Commonwealth

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County President Judge Thomas C. Raup as he appeared in 1985, at top. Below, Raup is helped into his robes for the first time by Judge Charles F. Greevy, left, and Clinton County Judge Carson Brown, right, in March 1974 after being appointed to the bench by Gov. Milton J. Shapp. The appointment followed the defeat of Judge Thomas Wood on a retention vote in November.

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of what a judge should be.”

Perhaps the most telling feature of Raup's impact was simply being a good person.

“He was a fabulous judge ... He was such a very fine person. He had a real good sense of humor,” said Clinton W. Smith, retired county president judge directly after Raup. “I was very fond of Judge Raup, and I enjoyed working with him. He was just a great person.”

John McDermitt, retired district judge, said that Raup's demeanor was always friendly despite having a powerful position.

“He was the everyday person. Just because he was a judge or a president judge, he was an average person,” McDermitt said. “He had a lot of concern for people. He was very friendly.”

Judge Dudley N. Anderson said that Raup's influence reached outside the local area.

“He was not only respected around here in the 29th Judicial District, but he had a statewide reputation,” Anderson said. “He was particularly admired by one of our former chief justices of the Supreme Court, John P. Flaherty Jr., who called on him repeatedly to chair statewide committees that the Supreme Court formed.”

Kevin Way, retired county court administrator, said that Raup had a lot of humanity.

“If he wanted to be remembered for something, it was that he was a dedicated public servant to his community. When he left the bench, he left the process much better than when he found it,” Way said. “It was more advanced and more professional. The process has just evolved from there into the present day.”

Scott Metzger, deputy chief adult probation officer, said that Raup was a visionary who always kept future generations in mind when trying to help the community.

“Lycoming County was blessed to have him here. He had the gift of vision,” Metzger said. “He knew what was going to be coming down the line in 10, 15 years and he was at the forefront of it.”

President Judge Nancy L. Butts said that she would remember Raup as always trying to advance the area.

“That's the way I always remembered him, as being a leader in looking toward the future and seeing how we can use new studies and new technology in how we can make our system better,” she said. “He was one of those president judges who had his finger on what needed to be done and worked hard toward it.”

Judge Richard A. Gray said that Raup was unmatched as a judge.

“He was an extremely bright judge. He knew the law very well ... I practiced law for 27 years before I came to the court,” he said. “I was before a lot of judges all over this state ... He was the best. I don't think there was anybody even in the same league as him.”

Judge Joy Reynolds McCoy said that many



In his first official act as judge, Judge Thomas C. Raup admits his younger brother, John O. Raup, right, to the county bar. John Raup was graduated from the Dickinson School of Law in 1973.

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looked up to him.

“He was always a teacher and was a great role model to attorneys. I know that he was a mentor to many and steered many people into the criminal justice and legal field,” she said. “He had an incredible passion for the juvenile justice system.”

Ed Robbins, chief juvenile probation officer, said that Raup had a connection with youth, and sometimes Raup would even come down from the bench to sit among the court when reading verdicts.

“He's a pretty tall fellow. When he stands up and comes off the bench, he's a pretty opposing man. He would come down and sit next to the young person, and that's the connection I was talking about,” Robbins said. “Even though he was a man of authority, he would put that aside at times, and he could be a shoulder to cry on or just a caring adult who's willing to walk alongside this young person who's struggling. It's pretty cool when you have a judge who does that.”

Smith said that Raup was so passionate about juveniles, he ended up adopting one of the youths in a case. Robbins said that level of involvement was a big deal.

“That kind of gives you an indication of the passion that he had for these kids. To be able to adopt one of the kids and call them your own speaks volumes,” Robbins said.

Kenneth Brown, senior judge, said that Raup was one of his mentors.

“He was very helpful as far as getting me to where I should be as a judge. I learned an awful lot from him,” he said. “He was brilliant in many ways, an architect of our systems.”

One thing that would be greatly missed among his colleagues was Raup's sense of humor. He was fondly known as a joker who knew how to keep people in high spirits with a good joke.

Metzger said that Raup, who was an Irishman very fond of Saint Patrick's Day, once decorated a statue in the courthouse with green clothing items for the holiday.

“I remember the court administrator at the time was furious and wanted to know who did it, but Judge Raup was behind it,” Metzger said.

Anderson said that Raup also knew how to take a joke. Once, the staff played a joke on him by including an order for permission to shut down court for Saint Patrick's Day in a pile of papers for him to sign. Anderson said it became an urban legend in the office.

Having a good sense of humor was just part of what made him beloved.

“He was always looking for something to make people better,” McDermitt said. “It was a big loss for our county when he retired, and it's a bigger loss that he's gone.”