

Late county judge remembered fondly at service

By MIKE REUTHER

The late Judge Thomas C. Raup was remembered as a family man and someone who carried himself with dignity and integrity throughout his career.

Local attorneys, judges and others who knew Raup shared stories about him during a special memorial gathering at the Lycoming County Courthouse Friday.

"He was my friend and my mentor," said Michael Wiley, who practiced law with Raup. "Apart from my parents, I can't think of anyone more important in my life."

Many others who stood up to recall Raup had similarly kind words to say about him.

Attorney Stephen C. Sholder recounted Raup's life from his boyhood in Jersey Shore to his days at Columbia University and Columbia Law School and the Navy to his days practicing law in Lycoming County before serving two decades as a county judge.

Sholder, who worked for Raup and later with him in their law firm, Raup & Sholder, was among a number of attorneys who recalled Raup's keen intellect, both as a practicing attorney and from the bench.

"He was a great man and he taught me so much," he said. "He started out as my boss. The best thing I remember about him he was my friend."

Retired Lycoming County Judge Kenneth Brown called Raup "a great man."

He recalled Raup as a great innovator who helped improve the court system.

"It's a blow for all of us to realize Tom is gone," he said.

Scott Metzger, county deputy adult probation officer, remembered Raup for his passion and temperament.

"He was the most influential person in my life next to my parents," he said.

Lycoming County Judge Dudley Anderson said one of his great career desires is to have Raup's talent.

"He would think out of the box," he said.

"He was the gold standard," said Lycoming County Judge Richard Gray.

Senior Judge William Kieser said he never doubted either Raup's integrity or ability.

"I think he was such a good judge because he was such a darn good trial lawyer," he said.

Attorney Michael Collins, who served as Raup's law clerk, said he always treated lawyers in his courtroom with respect.

Collins fondly recalled Raup's passion for gardening, flyfishing and his love for his family.

"He was a heck of a racquetball player," he said.

Others recall Raup's uncanny ability to see through any problem.

"He had this great intellect," recalled Lycoming County Judge Marc F. Lovecchio. "He always did the right thing. He taught me to treat everyone with respect and to put your family first."

Raup died in Seattle on Aug. 30 after falling on a playground.

He is survived by his son Joe, Joe's partner Diane and his granddaughter Stephanie; his son Ethan, daughter-in-law Tess and grandkids Jonah and Owen; his nephew Jay and his family; and many, many friends.

A memorial and Irish wake will be held for Raup starting at 11 a.m. today at his old law office at 634 W. Fourth St.