1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
2	IN RE:
3	MEMORIAL RESOLUTION : NO. 18-0006
4	RALPH "PAT" THORNE :
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.1	TRANSCRIPT OF MEMORIAL SERVICE held
2	before the Honorable Court of Lycoming County in Courtroom No. 1
.3	of the Lycoming County Courthouse, 48 West Third Street,
. 4	Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on March 12th, 2018, commencing at
.5	4:02 p.m. and concluding at 4:35 p.m.
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PROCEEDINGS

(Whereupon, the Memorial Service commenced at 4:02 p.m.)

JUDGE BUTTS: Good afternoon. This afternoon we have the privilege of holding a memorial service for Ralph Pat Thorne, a member of our bar, law association who passed away on November 30th of 2017. We recognize and appreciate the attendance of Pat's family who are here to join us for this memorial service. I'd like to acknowledge, specifically, his wife, Holly; his children, Tara and Taigen and members of the bench and bar.

On February 5th of 2018 I appointed a committee to prepare a report and resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Pat and the chairman of that committee is Dave Raker and the members of the committee are the attorneys E.J. Rymsza, Marc Drier, Scott Gardner and John Smay.

I now recognize David Raker, the chairman of the committee to present the Committee report and resolution.

MR. RAKER: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the Court, Holly, Tara, Taigen, Senior Judges Kieser and Anderson, fellow members of the bar and guests and friends. A report was created, which I will present at this time on behalf of Mr. Thorne.

Your Committee respectfully submits the following report and resolutions:

The Honorable Ralph Weymouth Thorne, Jr. a

member of this bar and court from 1984 to 2006, as well as a member of the Lycoming Law Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association, died peacefully at his home on White Pine Drive, Loyalsock Township, Montoursville, Pennsylvania on Thursday, November 30th, 2017.

Services were held on Tuesday, December 5th, 2017, at 10 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport following a visitation at the church the evening before between 5 and 7, both of which were well attended by his many friends, colleagues and relatives.

Ralph Weymouth Thorne, Jr. was born on November 23rd, 1935, the youngest son of Ralph Weymouth Thorne, Sr. and Joan Stearns Frymire, was a lifelong resident of Williamsport, save for the time he was pursuing his education and for a short period of time thereafter.

Ralph Thorne was generally known as Pat to his colleagues and his friends that he made as an adult, but in his youth and among his family and close friends he was also known as Ralphie.

Pat married Holly Lyon Thorne on July 1st, 1967, with whom he celebrated 50 years of marriage and who survives him. Together they had six children who along with his wife he loved very much and was very proud of, Tara Buebendorf, born 1971, of Hughesville; Travis Thorne born in 1975 of Leonard, Maryland; Tait Vimont, born in 1989 of Houston, Texas; and twin

daughters born in 1991, Taigen Thorne of Williamsport and Tali Thorne of New York, New York and Patrick Todd Thorne, who was born in 1968 who predeceased him as a result of an automobile accident on January 29th, 1986.

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Pat is also survived by six grandchildren and was also predeceased by a grandson, Hayden Todd Buebendorf and his brothers, Robert and Anthony, passed brothers Robert and Anthony.

Pat graduated from Williamsport High School in 1954, Pennsylvania State University in 1958 and Ohio Northern University School of Law in 1983.

Following law school Pat worked for a year as an attorney for the First National Bank of Uniontown in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Pat was admitted to the Bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on June 4th, 1984, and the Lycoming County Bar as well as the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in 1984.

Pat began his law career in Lycoming County as an associate with Marshall and Drier in Jersey Shore in 1984 and then soon opened his office in Williamsport.

Pat maintained a general practice of law in Williamsport from 1984 until his retirement at age 70 in 2006, changing his license status to inactive on July 1st of that year. During this time he first shared an office with Peter

Burchanowski on West Fourth Street in Williamsport, then had his own office in the former Kresge Building at the rear of Pine Street and later from March 1995 until his retirement at 322 Court Street in Williamsport where he shared offices over the course of his time there with David C. Raker, John A. Gummo, Eric R. Linhardt and Anthony D. Miele. His work consisted of an active bankruptcy practice and he was a conflict attorney for Lycoming County for a number of years.

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Pat was a member of the Big Bear Fish and Game Club for many years. He enjoyed his 50 years of trips to Long Beach Island. He had a great love of history, especially the Civil War, and was a voracious reader.

Pat was proud to have worked at Darling Valve, a Williamsport based fire hydrant company, which was founded by his father's family and which he worked at until 1969 when the company was sold.

Following his work at Darling Valve and prior to attending law school Pat worked in banking, including working with Joe Cramer at the investment firm of Blair and Company in Williamsport.

Pat will be remembered for his dry sense of humor, his quick wit, and his ability to bring a smile to those around him.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we the undersigned Committee appointed by this Court joined in by the Lycoming County Bar do hereby recognize the passing of Ralph W. Thorne, Esquire, and in his death we remember his many contributions to the citizens of Lycoming County and to this Bar.

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Resolve further that these resolutions and statements be spread at length upon the minutes of Your Honorable Court with copies to be sent to Ralph Thorne's widow and children and grandchildren and to be published in the Lycoming Reporter.

Resolved finally that this Court and the Lycoming County Bar extend to Ralph W. Thorne's widow, children, and grandchildren our deep heartfelt sympathy and expression of loss.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Did you wish to make any statements?

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}.$ $\ensuremath{\mathsf{RAKER}}:$ I would. I will present these and make a brief statement.

JUDGE BUTTS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RAKER: A function such as these are important, I believe, beyond giving a proper tribute to those people that we work with and also beyond as a method of expressing our grief, a grief that not of just family members; but those of us who worked with people and were friends of individuals that have passed also feel and our Court is commended, I believe, to be continuing this tradition. These

memorial services remind us of the healing nature of our work as attorneys and judges and give us hopefully a broader prospective of the things that we have to deal with that are beyond the mundane and rather contentious matters and controversies that we have to deal with on a daily basis and I believe they help foster the partnership between the bench and the bar and remind us that a good relationship between the two is important to a good functioning of our judicial system.

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For my own part I had the great pleasure of knowing Pat during the 11 years that I shared office space with him and he was very much the things that were said about him in the report and resolutions. He always had a pleasant thing to say, a little joke or comical thing to add, although, I understand he could be rather -- could growl quite severely in the courtroom if he thought it was necessary; but he was always very pleasant to share an office with and I enjoyed my time very much with him and I do also appreciate very much his active support of my several campaigns, political campaigns over the years. His office reflected the personal things in his personal life that were important to him, some of which he left to me when he retired. His love of history, for instance, he left a scale model of F4U Corsair World War 2 fighter and a scale model car of the Emperor's car, which he marked down or wrote on a piece of paper that it was the Emperor of Japan's car. I would very much have liked to travel with him to Gettysburg to tour the

battlefield, but that's one of those things that we all wish we could do in life and don't seem to get done.

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He certainly did love his family very much and that love and devotion kept him going throughout the years. Holly said to me the other day that his love for her and their family was evident and expressed by him just two days before he died and this in spite of the fog that had set in on him in the last years of his life, a fog that probably started earlier than he or anyone else knew. Pat and Holly's children are all very talented and capable and accomplished persons, kids that anybody would be very proud of and as Pat certainly was. His love of his children was evident and in his office, too, there was a small drawing, colored drawing, I think it was done by Tait of a dog that was hanging in his window. He left it there, it's still hanging there, in fact, not long ago the tape gave way and it fell down and I hung it back. I'm kind of a soft touch for things like that, too.

In his dress he, on casual days at least, he always liked to often wear deck shoes, often without socks and I must say I was a little tempted to don a pair of deck shoes today. I'm sure the Court would be glad that I didn't do that. Pat Thorne always worked very hard to do his very best for his family, his clients, and his community and he will be very much missed.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you.

MR. RAKER: I would ask Mr. Rymsza to offer his comments.

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MR. RYMSZA: Thanks, Dave. May it please the Court, friends and family and colleagues. I was one of those people that first knew -- I knew him as Mr. Thorne and eventually that evolved into Ralphie and I knew him and my relationship stemmed because his oldest son, Todd, was one of my best friends in high school and it was after he was killed that we became very close friends, in fact, Holly and Ralphie were like second parents to me and they still remain that way to me and that episode of losing my friend, but gaining a family, was something that I've never forgotten about and they've always remained very much a very, very, big part of my life. But when I -- when I came back to the area and I started to practice I think Ralphie was sort of winding up a little bit more of his career and I was trying to think of some things that would strike me about things about him and things that were very endearing and there were four things that came to mind. One was being up at the house and being up at the house there would be a leather chair with an ottoman and every time I would show up he would be in that leather chair with a clicker on the one side, a book in the other side and a very tall glass of beer that was mostly foam and I always remembered that. Second, he had a tremendous sense of humor that was in my view was just really intoxicating. always found a way to make me laugh, always found a way to have a

great story or tell some sort of funny joke and Dave had mentioned a third thing was his — him trying to revive the 80's look with seeing him in court with penny loafers and no socks and that's the way he was on the weekend, that's the way I knew him and I thought it was just so appropriate to see him that way in the courtroom. The final thing was just the warmth that he always had for me and always recognized his connection that I had with the family, that I continue to have with the family so if I would see him going back to his office he would stop me and always want to give me a hug and that I'm always so grateful and always supportive of his support and grateful for his friendship and his love over the years.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Mr. Drier, did you wish to say a few words?

MR. DRIER: Sure. Really it was longer ago that I worked with him, I think it was, in fact, in the 80's so it's more of an impression; but humor and lightness. I mean he would just — it was amazing how he would always just intentionally and easily lighten the mood of the room and, you know, we were a younger firm, we were struggling and trying to figure things out; but he had that effect on us on staff and was very much appreciated. So his humor and his lightness is something that I cherish.

JUDGE BUTTS: And Mr. Gardner.

MR. GARDNER: Thank you, Your Honor. I have a

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story to tell you about Pat Thorne that occurred right in this courtroom about 20 years ago, maybe 25 years ago. Judge Raup was on the bench. We all remember Judge Raup with the beard and the glasses on the end of his nose and it was sentencing day so the place was packed with attorneys and their clients and Pat was arguing for the Court to impose a sentence for his client that included drug and alcohol treatment. So Judge Raup looked up from the bottom of his glasses and he said, Mr. Thorne, are you asking the Court to impose in-house drug and alcohol treatment? Pat thought about it for a minute, consulted with his client and said, Your Honor, my client would prefer out-house treatment. never saw Judge Raup laugh so hard. But that was Pat. Just like Dave and E.J. and Marc said he always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye and I always enjoyed his company. I miss him and the legal profession needs more of Pat Thornes. Thank you, Your Honors.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. My understanding is that John Smay had a prepaid vacation that he wasn't able to change.

MR. RAKER: Mr. Smay did and he participated in this resolution and report, but he was unable to be here today.

JUDGE BUTTS: Okay. Thank you. The Court will approve the report and resolution of the Committee and will enter the following order: Now this 12th day of March, 2018, in consideration of the resolutions presented by the Committee appointed to draft resolutions in the death of Ralph W. "Pat"

Thorne, the said resolutions are adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the resolutions herewith submitted and attached be adopted as an official expression of the Lycoming County Law Association and this Court and that the same be spread upon the records of the court and that copies of this resolution be delivered to the family of Ralph W. Pat Thorne and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that said resolution be entered at large upon the record of the Court and that it be printed in the Lycoming Reporter.

I'd now like to ask my colleagues to say a few words about Pat. We have two Senior Judges here. Would either or both of you like to say something? Judge Kieser.

that's something else that Pat and I commiserate about the bad knees he had before I did, but, you know, one of those things that even though I now recognize the pain that he had, you know, he was always jovial about them and joking; but the other thing to say is I shared with Holly, you know, he'd get some tough situations and get some things that were just impossible and he would come up with some type of argument and every now and then he would hit that home run. We just enjoyed being with him and particularly just knowing — when I started in law he was in the banking and everything and just getting to know him through that was a wonderful experience.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Anderson.

most about Pat is that when you are going through the process of being an attorney it's sometimes advisable to be detached, a little bit aloof from the clients that you're representing. It's sort of a self-preservation thing and if you think about being aloof or being detached from your client that was not Pat. Pat lived and died with his clients. When he got up and he lost something or it went against him I think he felt as much pain as his clients did. Unfortunately I think that eats you alive after a while, but he had great empathy for the people that he represented and I think that that was an endearing quality that his clients had the great beneficiary of, even though it may have been in some ways costly to Pat because I think that it wears on you after a while. Having been a person of the similar ilk.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Linhardt.

Anderson just said because my experience with Pat was when Dave Raker was kind enough to find a small office space for me at 322 Court Street and John Gummo was in that space and Pat Thorne was in that space and Dave was in that space and I got to know Pat during my years — during my time in that office and he was a big guy, but he was so funny and so nice and so kind, which I saw by the empathy and care that he had for every one of his clients. His clients would come in and they would be struggling to be able to pay and for a lot of the rest of us it would mean that we

would be getting out of the case, but that was never the case with Pat, he cared too much about his clients and he would work with them and they would come in if it was \$10 or it was \$20 and he would continue to advocate for them and he continued to fight for them right through the end of the case and that may not have made him the best businessman, but it made him a wonderful attorney.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge McCoy.

He did do a little bit of family law so I did have a few cases with him, but the two things that I was thinking about, which have already been said, as I was thinking about Pat were he definitely always had a twinkle in his eye and wearing the loafers without socks and I don't know anyone else — a lot of times I'm thinking he didn't have a jacket as well; but I don't know anyone else who would get away with that in court, but he pulled it off seamlessly so.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Lovecchio.

JUDGE LOVECCHIO: One of the things that I hate to get while I'm on the bench is a note from my secretary that says call Angela because I don't know what it's going to be. So all day long I kept getting notes that said call Angela and then like call Angela before 4:00. So I call her and, Holly, she says to me, you make sure you let Holly know what a gentleman Pat was and how wonderful he was to me as a young attorney. I'm sorry I

can't make it because I have a family group meeting, but you make sure you let her know. That was the best message I ever got from Angela. You know, one thing kind of in line with what everybody said when I came here, I didn't know that Pat had actually started practicing law at the same time we did, Judge Butts, I thought he was just an older member of the bar who knew everybody; but he always made time for me and that's what I always appreciated. He always made my feel special, which I thought was really nice. One story that a lot of people don't remember and it kind of fits in with his dry sense of humor and caring about clients. There was a frequent flier around these parts by the name of Jeffrey Hill. Some of you remember him. Well, Jeffrey Hill was represented by Pat on a conflicts case and Pat secured a reversal and he secured a reversal and the case was remanded. Well, Jeffrey sued Pat because he only got a reversal and didn't get it an entire dismissal. Pat took that with some interesting humor, but only Pat could have dealt with Jeffrey Hill.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Gray.

JUDGE GRAY: Pat obviously did about as well as I did with Jeffrey Hill because my last contact with Jeffrey Hill he drew a picture of a kangaroo on my easel that said Judge Gray's Court. If Pat could handle him then that's good.

JUDGE LOVECCHIO: Well, you know what they said they said despite his unusual success they remarked about Pat.

JUDGE GRAY: But any way, Angela sort of stole some of my thunder. I thought Pat was a gentleman. always polite. He was always to the point, not rude to his opponent and, you know, unfortunately that's a trait that we don't see enough of any more. So I always remember that and some of the other speakers mentioned his good humor and his love for his family and his vacations and one time I got him good. came in -- Pat, of course, didn't file continuances the way you were supposed to in the Prothonotary's Office. He would bring his continuance in and walk right into my desk usually and he said, Judge, I have a vacation with my family coming up next week I need a continuance. So I looked real serious that's not a reason for a continuance and it was one of the few times that I saw him go speechless, but then, of course, I signed it and gave it to him; but he was obviously a good family man and his family knows that.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. I can recall just as Judge Lovecchio said being surprised because I always thought he was more experienced, more senior in the bar when I started practicing and then when I became a judge and being assigned to criminal and he was a conflicts attorney, how hard he worked for the clients that he was assigned. Many times, unfortunately, individuals who have the services of an attorney that they don't pay for they don't take them very seriously or they don't consider their hard work as valuable as those they pay for, but I

think he had — he understood that that's the way they felt; but he didn't really care he was going to do the best that he could for everybody that he was there to represent. So that was one of the nice things about having a conflicts attorney that was willing to do that and not just consider the other option, which is just show up and just do the minimum that you have to do. So I know as a starting out judge I greatly appreciated that and the willingness with which he would work with clients and participate in anything he could do for them. So it was a great opportunity to work with him. I'd be happy to hear any comments any members of the bar or individuals that are here would like to make. Perhaps members of the family would like to say something. Mr. Carlucci.

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MR. CARLUCCI: May it please the Court. As a general matter Pat was smart enough to avoid the kind of work I do so my contacts with him were fairly limited. In the civil cases where we did have contact I noticed that he had the uncommon ability to take the case seriously, but not to take himself too seriously, that is, he was pleasant, he was pleasant in his contacts with me, never confrontational, always, hey, Bill can we work this out somehow? Unfailingly supportive of his clients, but not attempting to prove anything to me personally and I found working with him very refreshing and at least in that sense I wish I was more like him. Thank you.

JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Mr. Greevy.

MR. GREEVY: Thinking about the many years I knew Pat I identified two different areas, number one was church. He was a member of St. Mark's Church as Holly had been for many, many, years. The mention of his twins made me recall I think during that time there were three sets of twins there at St. Mark's, one being my brother-in-law, the Zeiglers, Chuck Campbell, and then, of course, the Thorne kids and they all were within, as I recall, Holly, about six months of each other so that the church family certainly saw them grow up together and go through all the classes and everything else and they all, obviously, are all adults here at this point. So he was well trained from a church side as far as families. The other main connection I had with Pat, although he was a conflicts attorney, he served as one of the ongoing quardian ad litems for Children and Youth for many years and I found him representing the kids, I certainly know where he got the background from having a family such as he did; but he was always with the kids, he seemed to identify very quickly with them, certainly had the empathy and the compassion for them and certainly would bring to whatever judge we might happen to be before at that point, points that the kids needed to know. There were even a couple appeal hearings on terminations and that type of thing that we would go down to Harrisburg to argue and so on and he did come up with some interesting briefs and some interesting theories at times. Mention of his attire at times makes me recall one particular

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point at which we were before Judge Raup over in the courtroom where Judge Lovecchio is now and about halfway through one of the Children and Youth hearings Judge Raup called him forward and he said, Mr. Thorne, do I note that you don't have socks on and, of course, Pat acknowledged that he did not and Judge Raup at that point said I never want you to appear in my courtroom again without at least wearing socks. So I thought, well, there was a recognition and I don't know that I ever checked afterwards to see if he had socks; but certainly Pat acknowledged what was going on, Judge Raup noticed it and I'm sure that the other judges that had him in front of them, but as Children and Youth saw that he had a certain knack with the kids that he represented.

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JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Mr. Holland.

MR. HOLLAND: If I may, my little story will talk about the fact that I knew that Pat had law as a second career and about his love of reading. I knew that because when I was a law clerk for Judge Greevy Pat, I want to say hired but he didn't get paid; but he worked as an intern for Judge Greevy, I think, between his first and second year of law school and when you are a law clerk you do a lot of reading and it's not always well written stuff. The local trial court judges always write very well, but appellate judges seem to have lost that knack, but I remember Pat coming across a Justice Musmanno opinion and those who've read them know that he writes very well and Pat came

across this and he said, Fred, you got to listen to this this is great and he read at length Justice Musmanno's opinion that talked about somebody arguing something until the cows came home and Justice Musmanno said in his opinion, today the cows have come home and I find this way. But he had a love of reading and he had a joy about reading good things and I'll always remember that.

JUDGE BUTTS: Mr. Raker.

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MR. RAKER: Yeah, what Mr. Greevy said, Pat was an older father so maybe he gained some of his knowledge and wisdom on dealing with children that way. There are a couple of us here who are older fathers, maybe somebody else has gained knowledge and wisdom from that, I don't know that I have. I do appreciate the older father part.

THE COURT: Holly.

MRS. THORNE: I would like to thank everyone, each and every one of you for being here today. This is very special and I know Pat would be very proud and happy that all of you were here and told his funny stories and what he was really like and he certainly was not a wealthy attorney, but he was a happy attorney because he did take everyone that came to him and took his job very seriously. So thank you all for being here.

JUDGE BUTTS: Then I guess this now concludes the memorial service for Pat Thorne. I'd like to again thank the family for coming and members of the law association and other

friends for attending today's service and I would now call this special session of court as adjourned. Thank you all very much. (Whereupon, the Memorial Service concluded at 4:35 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the proceedings are transcribed fully and accurately from the notes taken by me of the Memorial Service of Ralph P. Thorne to the best of my ability and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same.

Roni Lynn Kreisher Official Reporter Lycoming County, PA