

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: :
RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY OF : CV-23-00004
WILLIAM E. NICHOLS, ESQUIRE :

TRANSCRIPT OF MEMORIAL SERVICE held
before the Honorable Court of Lycoming County in Courtroom No. 1
of the Lycoming County Courthouse, 48 West Third Street,
Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on October 17th, 2023, commencing at
4:04 p.m. and concluding at 4:42 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

J. David Smith, Esquire, Chairman
The Honorable Matthew W. Brann
Elizabeth White, Esquire
David Bahl, Esquire
Thomas Burkholder, Esquire

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MEMORIAL SERVICE

1
2 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Good afternoon. This
3 afternoon we have the privilege of holding a memorial service for
4 William E. Nichols, Esquire, a long-time member of our bar
5 association and I see that there are members of his family here,
6 so we recognize and appreciate their attendance here with us
7 today.

8 In July of this year I would have issued an
9 order appointing a Committee to prepare a Report and Resolutions
10 recognizing the life of Mr. Nichols and his accomplishments and
11 those individuals were J. David Smith, Chairperson; Judge Matthew
12 Brann from the Federal Court; Elizabeth White, David Bahl, both
13 of McCormick Law and Thomas Burkholder, Esquire. I think I'm
14 going to just recognize you, Mr. Smith, and have you take over
15 from here.

16 **J. DAVID SMITH:** Thank you, Your Honor. I would
17 like to present to the Court the executed Resolutions.

18 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you.

19 **J. DAVID SMITH:** May it please the Court, family
20 of Bill Nichols, friends and colleagues. I'm going to preface my
21 remarks by saying they're longer than they usually are for these
22 kinds of services, but I really -- the Committee really couldn't
23 help it because Bill's life was extraordinary as you will hear.

24 On the 19th of July, 2023, the Honorable
25 Nancy L. Butts, President Judge of the 29th Judicial District of

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1 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appointed the Undersigned
2 Committee to prepare a Report and Resolutions memorializing the
3 life of William E. Nichols for submission to the Court at this
4 public ceremony.

5 Accordingly, your Committee respectfully
6 submits the following Report and Resolutions:

7 William "Bill" -- William Ezra "Bill"
8 Nichols, 94, a proud lifelong resident of Williamsport, died
9 peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on June 4,
10 2023. He was born in Williamsport on March 15, 1929, a son to
11 the late William and Beulah, maiden name Walker, Nichols.

12 Bill was a lawyer, a veteran, a husband, a
13 father, a grandfather, a great grandfather, a friend and a
14 leader. He was a community activist in the old-school sense
15 actively participating in numerous organizations in giving back
16 to the community he served.

17 Bill graduated Williamsport High School in
18 1947 and then graduated from Penn State University in 1951 and
19 Dickinson Law School in 1957. While attending his beloved Penn
20 State, Bill met the woman who would become his wife, Patricia A.
21 Thompson Nichols and they married on December 26th, 1951. They
22 spent 59 wonderful years together before her passing on
23 March 19th, 2010.

24 Bill and Pat created a large, accomplished
25 and loving family. Bill is survived by his six children, William

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1 E. Nichols, Jr., Stephen F. Nichols, Andrew W. Nichols, Bradley
2 G. Nichols, Sharon L. Nichols, and Christopher B. Nichols; nine
3 grandchildren, Jonathan Nichols, Elizabeth Ahern, Rebecca
4 Nichols, Katherine Nichols, Benjamin Nichols, Elliot Nichols,
5 Zachary Nichols, Chloe Sabo-Nichols, and Emma Sabo-Nichols; and
6 two great-grandchildren, Ava and Jack Nichols.

7 Bill served in the Navy for three years
8 during the Korean War as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer.
9 After his service and time at Dickinson, Bill began practicing
10 law in 1957 with Furst, McCormick, Muir, Lynn and Reeder, which
11 is now McCormick Law Firm. Bill practiced with our firm for 51
12 years focusing in the areas of wills, estates, taxes, and
13 corporate organization and planning.

14 Bill was well known for his positive outlook
15 on life often stating "it's just another day to excel." Bill was
16 extremely active in the community belonging to many clubs,
17 including the Dunwoody Fish and Game Club, the Mason Ivy Lodge
18 No. 106, the Ross Club, the Williamsport Country Club, and the
19 Williamsport Tennis Club. With particular respect to the latter
20 two organizations, Bill never hesitated to remind us that he was
21 a natural athlete.

22 Bill's list of community endeavors is
23 eyeopening in its scope. Bill was named the young man of the
24 year by the Lycoming County Jaycees in 1964, where he served as
25 past president and he was the Cancer Crusade Chairman on the

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1 Lycoming County Lung and Respiratory Disease Board for over 20
2 years. Bill started Meals on Wheels during his time on the
3 Visiting Nurses Board. He also received the IOLTA award in 1993.

4 Bill was the proud founding father of STEP,
5 Incorporated, an organization that has since grown to employ more
6 than 350 people. His contributions to STEP led to Bill's receipt
7 of the Outstanding Contribution Award in 2011.

8 Bill also took great pride in his work at the
9 James V. Brown Library over the 50 years he served on its board.
10 In 2002 he received the Carile Cone Brown Distinguished Service
11 Award.

12 Bill ventured into politics and served as
13 president of the Williamsport City Council in 1972, during the
14 transition to the now current former Mayor/Council form of
15 government. As part of the Commission appointed to change the
16 City's form of government, Bill worked towards developing a more
17 unified and efficient administrative code.

18 In addition to his work with STEP, Bill
19 founded the Williamsport Symphony. That musical connection fit
20 nicely with Bill's deep love for singing, serving as the choir
21 member -- as a choir member for over 50 years at the Trinity
22 Episcopal Church and for a time with the Williamsport Civic
23 Chorus. He was especially proud to sing in the church choir with
24 his entire family for many years.

25 Bill was the chairman of the Municipal Water

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1 Authority for 38 years and he served on the Sewer Authority
2 Board. He was honored when the Authority's new water filtration
3 plant was named after him in 2017.

4 Bill was a member of the board of the former
5 Williamsport Hospital. He was a member and a past president of
6 the Lycoming Law Association, from which he received the
7 Community Service Award in 2012, an award that has been named in
8 his honor ever since. During his tenure, Bill co-founded the
9 Lycoming County Law Association Charitable Foundation and was
10 also past editor of the Lycoming Review.

11 Bill also served on the boards of the
12 Lycoming United Way, Lycoming Tuberculosis and Respiratory
13 Disease Association, the American Cancer Society, the Lycoming
14 Housing Authority, and the Williamsport Rotary Club, where he was
15 named Paul Harris Society Member and was named Rotarian of the
16 Year in 2017.

17 Bill served as the past chair of both the
18 Williamsport Chamber of Commerce and the Williamsport Lycoming
19 Foundation, now the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania.
20 In 2002 he received a Community Service Award from -- the
21 Community Service Award from the Foundation. He was granted the
22 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Lycoming County Historical
23 Society in 2010. In 2016 he received the Lycoming County
24 Brotherhood Alliance Award.

25 When he was not attending local associations

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1 and community meetings, Bill enjoyed reading historical
2 non-fiction, gardening, golf, playing tennis, and fly fishing.
3 He often shared with his partners and co-workers at the firm
4 lunch table his extensive knowledge and philosophical insights.

5 Bill and his wife, Pat, were added to the
6 mural of prominent leaders alongside the Bull Frog Brewery where
7 they will forever overlook the community that they cared for so
8 deeply. Of his many accomplishments, Bill proudly stated that
9 his greatest happiness was his family.

10 Bill lived a full life. We knew him as a
11 loving family man, a consummate professional and gentleman, and a
12 selfless leader. We will continue to remember him not only for
13 all those things, but also for the lasting organizations that
14 survive him.

15 Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the
16 undersigned, joined by the Bar of Lycoming County, do recognize
17 the passing of William E. Nichols, Esquire and recommend adopting
18 the following Resolutions:

19 Be it resolved that in the passing of William
20 E. Nichols on June 4, 2023, there has been a loss to the Law
21 Association of Lycoming County of an able and conscientious
22 member who epitomized the highest traditions of the legal
23 profession, a loss to the community of a valuable participant, a
24 loss to the family of a devoted, kind, and loving husband,
25 father, grandfather and great-grandfather and a sincere and

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1 caring man; and.

2 Be it further resolved that this Court and
3 this Bar do hereby extend to Bill's children, grandchildren and
4 great-grandchildren a deep and heartfelt expression of gratitude;
5 and be it further resolved that these Resolutions be spread at
6 length upon the minutes of the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming
7 County and that copies be given to Bill's family.

8 Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions
9 Committee that was identified by Judge Butts.

10 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Did you wish
11 to say a few words?

12 **J. DAVID SMITH:** I would like to say a few words,
13 Your Honor, if it would be permitted and then I think some of the
14 Committee members have a few words to say.

15 I have two personal specific observations and
16 one general observation. My first is that going to a Nichols'
17 tailgate at a Penn State football game was worth living; that was
18 an event and Bill made sure that he would welcome you to the
19 event and welcome you to his family and his love of Penn State
20 was deep. The second was, Bill's devotion to his wife, Pat,
21 during her declining years was exceptional. It was -- I knew
22 Bill relatively well, but that was beyond the scope of anything I
23 would have anticipated. Finally, a general observation. I
24 didn't know at least 50 percent of the things that I just read
25 during Bill's life and that's because Bill was a modest man and I

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1 think the modesty was driven by the fact that he was comfortable
2 with who he was. He was not out to impress you. He was not out
3 to brag. He was not out to be anything other than what he was
4 and that's an example that I try to emulate, haven't gotten there
5 yet; but I'm going to keep on trying. Thank you.

6 I think Mr. Bahl wanted to speak, Your Honor.

7 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you.

8 **DAVID BAHL:** May it please the Court, members of
9 the Bar, friends and family members. Indeed, Bill did love
10 history so I'm going to offer a bit of history. In 1957 he joins
11 Furst, McCormick, Muir, Lynn and Reeder. Dale Furst has long
12 since expired, but he had a statewide reputation and was an
13 excellent lawyer. Clay McCormick would end up being the last
14 McCormick in a line of McCormicks that started when the firm
15 started in 1862. Malcolm Muir was truly Bill's mentor and for
16 those of you that just knew Judge Muir as a federal judge, before
17 that he had a long and excellent career as an estate planning
18 attorney, a tax attorney, wills, trusts. He had a wonderful
19 reputation and he trained Bill Nichols. Seth McCormick Lynn was
20 also part of the firm in 1957. I know him as Jim, because that
21 was his nickname; but Jim was the last person in Pennsylvania to
22 take and pass the Pennsylvania Bar without having gone to law
23 school. He read law, which back in the 20's and 30's was not all
24 that unusual, but that's what he did. And Paul Reeder, who had
25 become a District Attorney in Lycoming County.

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1 In 1957 when Bill started with the firm the
2 president judge was Charles F. Greevy, II. Judge Thomas Wood was
3 also on the bench. This new courthouse wasn't here. The old
4 courthouse was where Bill was admitted in this exact same
5 position. Over the years Bill was instrumental in recruiting
6 such attorneys such as Bob Sarno, Bill Knecht, and very young
7 Dave Bahl, for which I will always be grateful, a young Dave
8 Smith, and such other attorneys as Ken Young, Bob Eckenrode,
9 Joanne Ludwikowski, and John Person, my good friend.

10 What was it like practicing law in 1957?
11 Well, of course there was no internet; but there was also no
12 digital calculator. There weren't even any electric typewriters.
13 There were no word processors, no spellcheckers, no GPS, no
14 hypertext, no emails or texting, no computer-generated legal
15 research, instead, research was done in 1957 and way beyond that
16 with volumes of books using Shephard's citations, which was a
17 cumbersome system, I think, to look at cases to determine whether
18 they had been overruled or not. There were no dictating
19 machines. Bill dictated his work to a legal secretary, Betty
20 Evelhair, for many years, Betty Evelhair probably 40 or 50 years,
21 who took down his words in shorthand and then typed it over again
22 and if she made a mistake she used some little piece of paper
23 that they put in there to correct the error right on that page.
24 There was no court administrator then. The judges' secretaries
25 did the scheduling. Right, Skip?

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1 **CHARLES GREEVY, III:** Absolutely.

2 **DAVID BAHL:** Now, in 1957 when Bill started, the
3 firm was located at 429 Pine Street behind the old what I call
4 the Northern Central Bank building; but something significant
5 occurred in 1974 that I remember like it was yesterday and it
6 happened in this very room. There was an auction sale and the
7 firm bought 835 West Fourth Street, which has now been our home
8 for almost 50 years. Bill was instrumental in making the
9 decision to do that. You have to have been there to know this,
10 but 50 years ago for a major law firm to leave center city and
11 leave being close to the courthouse and going all the way up to
12 835 West Fourth Street was astonishing, people thought we
13 couldn't do it; but Bill had the guidance, the vision to know
14 that it would work and it did.

15 The other thing that I remember like it was
16 yesterday is that in 1982 Bob Sarno, whose name I mentioned, died
17 unexpectedly at the age of 39. Our firm was devastated. I can
18 remember sitting there and all of us were in a panic, but Bill
19 relieved that stress by his assurance, by his expertise and his
20 confidence that the firm could go forward. It was a traumatic
21 event for us and he weathered the storm with us, in fact, he led
22 us. He was a rock then just like he was a rock all throughout
23 his practice.

24 So in addition to everything Bill
25 accomplished in the community, with his family, with his church,

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1 he had a long and very successful legal life. He left the legal
2 profession and his law firm better off because of his involvement
3 and his leadership. I have been privileged to have been his
4 partner.

5 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Were there any
6 other members of the Committee that wished to speak? Judge
7 Brann, did you wish to stay a few words?

8 **JUDGE MATTHEW BRANN:** Thank you, Judge. May it
9 please the Court. I knew Mr. Nichols a bit when I was still at
10 the bar, but I really got to know him when I relocated here as I
11 took the federal bench. I would echo, I think, particularly what
12 Mr. Smith had said, he was just a kind and gracious person. He
13 very welcoming me -- he was very welcoming of me to Lycoming
14 County. He was indeed very proud of Williamsport, of the
15 traditions and the history of Williamsport, and he repeated that
16 to me regularly when I would have dinner with him, when I would
17 have lunch with him and I won't forget that. I mean just a
18 lovely person to deal with, like I said, very gracious and very
19 welcoming person as his family well knows.

20 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Anyone else
21 from the Committee? Okay. Colleagues? Judge Carlucci.

22 **JUDGE CARLUCCI:** Thank you, Your Honor. Egyptians
23 believed that as long as folks spoke your name you were immortal,
24 which probably explains why they built so many monuments. I am
25 humbled and proud to tell you that when my mother passed, St.

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1 Ann's Church decided that they would name their food pantry after
2 her because of her commitment to those less fortunate. My mother
3 was quite poor in her childhood and they decided to name the food
4 pantry after her. I think it is remarkable that the Lycoming Law
5 Association named its Community Service Award after Bill and, you
6 know, we all tend to express community service in terms of pro
7 bono work and since I'm doing PFAs three days a week I will tell
8 you the pro bono lawyers are a great blessing to me. However,
9 Bill not only received recognition by the Bar Association for his
10 pro bono work, he received recognition by the Bar Association for
11 his community service work and the award is named after him and I
12 think that's true because among the lawyers of the Bar of
13 Lycoming County Bill Nichols was the personification of community
14 service and I can't imagine a better way to be immortal than to
15 have folks associate your name with community service.

16 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Judge Carlucci.
17 Judge Linhardt.

18 **JUDGE LINHARDT:** Thank you. I did not have the
19 honor of knowing Bill Nichols, but that's primarily because as a
20 young attorney I practiced criminal law and so our paths did not
21 cross professionally. But as I have said before, I am grateful
22 that the Bar continues with these memorial services not only
23 because it's an opportunity for us to respect and honor the
24 lawyers we have practiced with; but it's an opportunity for us to
25 hear stories about those people that we did not know already. I

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1 am further grateful that Bill Nichols' family is here with us
2 because although you obviously have known and loved Bill
3 personally, I think it's important that you have the opportunity
4 to hear how he has impacted those of us who knew him
5 professionally. So thank you for being here.

6 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. I think when I
7 first moved here back in 1986 it was McCormick, Reeder, Bahl,
8 Sarno & Knecht and I always thought oh, my gosh, if they take on
9 more attorneys is the name going to get a lot longer and then it
10 suddenly became McCormick Law and I can't even tell you when that
11 happened. It just reminded me that there are attorneys that like
12 me who came from another place, who stayed here for a little
13 while and moved on or moved back home and other people that were
14 born here and made a commitment to their community. One of the
15 things that I discovered when I was elected, now almost 28 years
16 ago, was going to different meetings and being introduced to a
17 lot of different people; the fact that there was a history of
18 attorneys stepping up and doing things that needed to be done
19 because it was the right thing to do and everywhere I went,
20 because everyone who knows me knows that the arts are something
21 that's very important in my life and I've gotten to know Brenda
22 very well through the Community Theater League, that I would see
23 Bill everywhere, whether it was the symphony or the Community
24 Arts Center for a production or even in the community and with
25 the Foundation and just his love of supporting the community in

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1 any way he could. So that's one of the things that I have been
2 blessed with the opportunity to do is, although as you know we
3 can't fundraise; but we can certainly support our community
4 activities and to see all of the -- I just didn't know the extent
5 of all the commitment that he has made to the community; but what
6 a better place he contributed to making this community and how --
7 and how lucky we are that he cared for his community. I mean
8 there are a lot of people that go to work and come home and he
9 was clearly not one of those people and even when his wife passed
10 away you would still see him out and about supporting the
11 activities that he continued to love.

12 I have some very good friends that went to
13 Penn State trips with the family and just really raved about how
14 he never really lost his enthusiasm for the community and for
15 life. Starting out as a new attorney, who maybe was a public
16 defender for a few minutes; but then was a law clerk for a judge
17 who got to see the Neafie Mitchells and the attorneys, Bill
18 Nichols was a huge influence to that beginning part of my life,
19 although I didn't continue to practice civil law; but through
20 that experience, too, you get to sit with Judge Smith and just
21 hear about the connections with Judge Muir and everyone that made
22 this -- Judge Greevy -- and that everyone that made this
23 community what it is.

24 So I guess sort of playing off what Judge
25 Carlucci said, I hope that in some small way I can take after him

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1 that in my commitment to my community here, which feels like
2 home, although it isn't my -- the home that I was born and raised
3 in, to have the same expression of love and appreciation in
4 making the community a better place the way he did and I feel
5 very fortunate that I had the opportunity to not only know him;
6 but be acquainted with members of his family as well.

7 So just as Judge Linhardt said, this is a
8 wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the commitment that those
9 who have gone before us have made to our community and as I've
10 said before, Mr. Mitchell, when I remember you talking about
11 these memorial services, how important they were and how
12 beneficial it was to just come together and to commiserate and to
13 reflect and remember on the commitments that people made to the
14 community.

15 So I appreciate everyone for coming here
16 today and supporting Mr. Nichols and the legacy that he has left
17 for Lycoming County.

18 Before I go any further, I need to accept the
19 Resolutions as presented and dictate this order. Now, this 17th
20 day of October, 2023, in consideration of the Resolutions
21 presented by the Committee appointed to draft Resolutions in the
22 death of William E. Nichols, Esquire, the said Resolutions are
23 adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the Resolutions
24 herewith submitted and attached be adopted as an official
25 expression of the Lycoming County Law Association and this Court

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1 and that the same be spread upon the records of the Court and the
2 copies of this Resolution be delivered to the family of William
3 E. Nichols, Esquire, and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that
4 said Resolution be entered at large upon the record of the Court
5 and that it be printed in the Lycoming Reporter.

6 Now is traditionally the time that we ask for
7 people to speak. Mr. Wiley.

8 **MR. WILEY:** May it please the Court, fellow
9 members of the Bar, family and friends of Bill Nichols. I had
10 wanted to stand and make some remarks in Bill's memory. Please
11 forgive me I'm going to read them because it will be a little
12 easier for me to get through them that way.

13 I was not Bill's law partner and never had a
14 case or legal matter with him. That said, my office now is his
15 office and I sit behind his desk every day, however, I do not sit
16 in his chair and I certainly don't stand or walk in his shoes.
17 Since his passing I found myself at times pondering how he did it
18 all and those who spoke before me appropriately recognized his
19 vast accomplishments.

20 Bill and I did share a common friend, Randy
21 Hipple. Bill served on Randy's first council and I served with
22 Randy on his last. We both shared remarks on Bill's legacy at
23 his funeral. However, my time with Bill really started at the
24 Shamrock. He was a Friday regular for clam chowder with his
25 friends. It was always a crowded booth. He had an opening one

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1 day and invited me over and kindly shared his friends and his
2 stories. They definitely held court and entertained themselves
3 and each other and me with their years of adventures and times
4 shared together. I really truly enjoyed those interactions when
5 he shared those moments with me, who did not grow up, obviously,
6 with that group. I cannot count how many times Bill and I had
7 shared a bowl of chowder together and it was many, but every time
8 counted. During my last call with him we talked about meeting up
9 at the Shamrock when he was able to get around a little better,
10 unfortunately, that never happened.

11 Since my arrival in Williamsport, I've been
12 very fortunate to have been befriended and influenced by some
13 tremendous individuals, members of this community, this Bench and
14 Bar. I'm very thankful and grateful to include Bill in that
15 group. To me Bill epitomized what one could do to improve one's
16 community when trained in the law. He was gracious with his time
17 and generous with his talents. We were fortunate in
18 Williamsport, Billtown, Bill's town and that he gave so much and
19 set such a fine example. A life well lived and he will be
20 missed.

21 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Anyone else?
22 Mr. Greevy.

23 **CHARLES GREEVY, III:** I have a prospective on Bill
24 that is perhaps a little bit different. When we were looking for
25 a new house we decided we would move from a smaller house because

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1 we had two children so we at that point started looking. There
2 was a house next to Bill and Pat's, I think it might have been
3 owned by their grandparents, maybe at that point or some later
4 time. Bill became very interested in wondering if we didn't want
5 to look at that house. We didn't, but the house we bought was
6 about a block away and I found out after that when I was walking
7 one of -- a number of dogs that we would have I'd go down by his
8 home, he would be out, we'd chat a little bit, we would come back
9 and forth.

10 Certainly I was also aware of the many
11 organizations that he was a member of and he was thought of very
12 highly for it. Some of the more community minded, I guess, would
13 have been the Williamsport Water and Sewer Authority. He served
14 on that for a tremendous amount of years and indeed became the
15 chairperson of that for a long time along with John Youngman,
16 Sr., I think, at that point. The other main one that was deep in
17 his heart was the James V. Brown Library where he was a member,
18 president, everything, for over 50 years along with Tom
19 Burkholder, who is here today and certainly from a personal
20 standpoint my wife, Gloria, served on the library board and still
21 does and it still is looked upon as being a heritage that Bill
22 left at that point. In fact, she was reminding me that she was
23 the first woman appointed to the Sewer and Water Authority at one
24 point and it was a period of time when Bill was involved in that.

25 After we had moved to Walnut Street in the

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1 early 80's our children at that point were, I think, 6 -- 4 and
2 9, I think, and Bill came over to our home and I don't remember
3 whether it was Memorial Day or Fourth of July, but he had a
4 ceremony that he had done for a number of years and the boys are
5 tilting their head, too, I'm sure they had to dress up and carry
6 their flag and so on. Bill and Jim Maiolo had always gotten into
7 their service uniforms and, I guess, I was impressed somewhat
8 that someone had kept those; but very likeable person.

9 Through the years certainly we would see Bill
10 being a block away and so on. One of -- well, the last time that
11 I directly spoke with him was it might have been a month or two
12 before he passed away or became more ill that he couldn't be out;
13 but he was out on that little ramp and front porch that had been
14 built for him and Gloria and I walked up and chatted with him
15 awhile and his -- he knew us right away, he had some memories
16 that he shared with us, wondered how our -- what kind of dog we
17 had at that point and I said, well, we don't have a dog and he
18 goes, yeah, they become a burden after a while.

19 Well, that was one of the factors, but Bill
20 certainly being from my -- just before my generation, I did have
21 a number of times when I would call him particularly with a real
22 estate or a will question and he was always helpful, always
23 direct and he was certainly a milestone in the practice of law in
24 this county and certainly his memory ought to be preserved as
25 long as it may be. Thank you.

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1 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Anyone else?

2 **WILLIAM NICHOLS, JR.:** I think I need to say on
3 behalf of the Nichols' family I really appreciate and thank you
4 for this recognition. He certainly deserves it.

5 As was said and evidenced in the Resolution,
6 he was a very caring, committed, and successful person in
7 everything he ever did, you know, in the community, all the
8 organizations that he worked with, the law, very committed to the
9 law and obviously committed to his family.

10 I should note that you said they wore their
11 uniforms. They didn't quite fit into all their uniforms, I think
12 it ended up with just a hat.

13 Anyway, the one word that I keep thinking of,
14 it wasn't even mentioned, I don't think, was he was very much in
15 tradition. I think that was obvious in the work that he did with
16 all the committee organizations and how many years he stayed on
17 the board to serve over 50 years with the library, the Water
18 Sewer Authority. I think it was very important for him to
19 maintain those organizations in a traditional way, you know, that
20 they could serve the purpose that they were intended to in the
21 community. So I think that was very important to him. The
22 traditional law I saw that, you know, in all the organizations
23 and corporations and friends he made that he made sure through
24 his legal work that those companies maintained, you know, what
25 they were meant to do, tradition in how they served the community

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1 and how he did the work.

2 For his family, my gosh, he was very
3 traditional. You know, I think that's representative in terms of
4 how, you know, the family is still, you know, very close and he
5 was always looking at the family tree and working on the family
6 tree with other members of the organizations. He really -- his
7 extended family was important to him and he just wanted to make
8 sure that it was one big family and he would try to document that
9 and it was just amazing, you know, how traditional he was in
10 terms of everything he did, the Memorial Day parade, you know,
11 the simple things like that, traditions that were really
12 important to many people that others wouldn't think of
13 necessarily.

14 But so, you know, he came from -- maybe I'm
15 saying too much -- but he came from a very modest family, his
16 father was a school teacher in the Williamsport Area and then he
17 was a principal of four schools, grade schools, believe it or
18 not, one principal for four schools so his father was very
19 devoted to the community, he was Chairman of the Brandon Park
20 Commission for many, many years and so Grandpa Nichols would sit
21 on his porch by the park with his feet up and hold court, you
22 know, in terms of, you know, the Brandon Park and one of the
23 highlights of my career was when my grandfather and my dad were
24 at a council meeting up at the bus garage they were honored for
25 various things. So his mother was very modest, she came through

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1 the depression and made her own soap, made her own dresses, even
2 swept the street in front of her house. So I think that modesty,
3 my dad represented that to a certain respect came from his family
4 and how traditional they were.

5 So I can go on and on, but I just wanted to
6 thank everybody, the Law Association, the Honorable Judges, the
7 Committee and everybody for their work and the honor that they
8 bestowed on my dad through this event. So I thank you very much.

9 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Nichols.
10 Any other members of the family that wanted to say anything?

11 **ANDREW NICHOLS:** No. He said it all.

12 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Oh, Andy, a man of few
13 words. Anyone else? Okay. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think
14 this has been a great afternoon to keep up the spirit of this
15 memorial service because we do get the chance to learn more about
16 people we might have known through law history or bar history;
17 but haven't had the privilege to work with just as Judge Linhardt
18 said. So I thank and appreciate everyone who has taken the time
19 out here today to come and share these memories with us and to
20 learn about members of the Law Association and I'd like to, once
21 again, thank the members of the family for coming here today and
22 being a part of our ceremony and shared with us, as you did, the
23 memories of your father and his family and a little bit about the
24 roots as to how he became the man that he was and how he served
25 the community in the way that he did. So I really appreciated

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1 that. Thank you.

2 **WILLIAM NICHOLS, JR.:** I forgot one thing. I'm
3 now the natural athlete.

4 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Let the record reflect
5 that fact. Thank you. So then this Special Session of Court is
6 adjourned. Thank you all very much.

7 (Whereupon, the Memorial Service concluded at 4:42 p.m.)
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