

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: :
APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE :
TO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE : NO. 18-000006
DEATH OF CHARLES A. CAFFREY, :
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 April 26th, 2018, commencing at
4:02 p.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Good afternoon. I'd like to welcome
3 everyone to this special session of court. This afternoon we
4 have the privilege of holding a Memorial Service for a member of
5 our law association Charles A. Caffrey. We recognize and
6 appreciate the attendance of family members who are here and
7 friends who are joining us with this Memorial Service. I believe
8 that Brian and Michael Caffrey are both here, sons, and so thank
9 you both very much for coming.

10 I would also note that on March 16th of 2018
11 I appointed a committee to prepare a report and resolution
12 recognizing the life and accomplishments of Charles Caffrey. The
13 chairman of the committee is Thomas Marshall and members of the
14 committee are Mr. Caffrey's son, Brian, Michael Collins, Henry
15 Percibelli and good friend Andree Phillips. So I would now
16 recognize the Chair, Thomas Marshall, to present the Committee's
17 report and resolution.

18 **MR. MARSHALL:** Thank you, Your Honor. Good
19 afternoon Your Honors. I have a signed copy of the resolutions
20 of the Committee, there's multiple versions of that, along with
21 the proposed Order of Court. Good afternoon all. Thank you all
22 for coming to honor Charlie. I'm going to read the resolutions
23 and then we have the privilege of hearing from some of Charlie's
24 friends, colleagues, and family members.

25 Resolutions of the Committee to the Honorable

1 Judges of said Court. The Committee appointed by your Honorable
2 Court to prepare resolutions concerning the death of Charles
3 Caffrey reports as follows:

4 Charles Augustine Caffrey was born on
5 August 15, 1930, in Plains Township, Pennsylvania. He was the
6 son of the Anthony Michael and Josephine Brady Caffrey. Charles
7 was known to most as Charlie.

8 Charlie grew up near the anthracite coal
9 mines and the colliery where his father worked as a young boy.
10 His home and the neighborhood playground on Helen Street stood in
11 the shadow of the colliery and the culm bank. He cherished his
12 mother, his father, his brother and his three sisters, all of
13 whom were towering figures in his life. He was proud of his
14 Irish heritage, but was a consummate American.

15 Charlie and the former Mary Alice Goobic
16 started dating in 1950 on the day the Korean War broke out.
17 Charlie and Mary Alice were married on July 2nd, 1953 and
18 together they celebrated 64 years of marriage. In spite of
19 leaving his beloved Plains in the early 1950's, Charlie never
20 lost his affection for the place, its history, or its people.
21 Charlie was the valedictorian of the 1948 graduating class of
22 Sacred Heart High School in Plains Township, Wilkes-Barre.
23 Charlie attended Wilkes University and graduated in 1952 with a
24 BA in political science, becoming the first in his family to earn
25 a four-year degree. While attending Wilkes, Charlie played on

1 the college hockey team.

2 After graduating from college Charlie was
3 drafted into the U.S. Army where he served in Army Intelligence
4 until being honorably discharged in 1956. After his service in
5 the military he went to work for the National Security Agency as
6 an analyst during the height of the Cold War with the former
7 Soviet Union. Charlie never spoke of what he did with the NSA
8 other than to say he learned the Russian language.

9 While working at the NSA Charlie enrolled in
10 law school attending George Washington University at night and
11 graduating in 3 1/2 years. As a law student Charlie was on law
12 review and passed the bar exam before earning his degree.

13 After graduating from law school in 1959
14 Charlie went to work for the National Labor Relations Board in
15 Washington, D.C. It was at the NLRB that his love of labor and
16 employment law blossomed. While at the NLRB Charlie became the
17 first president of the union representing NLRB attorneys. Also
18 during his time with the NLRB Charlie spent 2 1/2 years earning
19 his LLM from Georgetown University in Washington, graduating in
20 1962.

21 In 1967 Charlie accepted a position at
22 Stroehmann Brothers Baking in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. At
23 that time Stroehmann Brothers Baking was the country's largest
24 independently owned wholesale baking firm. Charlie moved his
25 family to Williamsport in 1967 and never considered leaving the

1 area. He spent 22 years with Stroehmann Brothers Baking rising
2 to the position of Vice President and General Counsel negotiating
3 many labor contracts dealing with numerous strikes and labor
4 stoppages as well as many union organizing campaigns.

5 Professionally Charlie loved nothing more than negotiating
6 contracts with the Teamsters and Bakery and Confectionary Workers
7 Unions. Throughout his life Charlie maintained close
8 relationships with union representatives, the foundation of which
9 was the mutual respect built during marathon good-faith
10 bargaining sessions. Charlie retired from Stroehmann as Senior
11 Vice President and General Counsel in 1989 and entered private
12 law practice where he spent the last 18 years of his working
13 career. He took great pride in being a knowledgeable,
14 experienced, and expert practitioner of his craft, labor and
15 employment law.

16 Charlie was a 50-year member of St. Boniface
17 Catholic Church, he was active in the West Branch Manufacturing
18 Association and served on many labor management boards and
19 committees. Charlie was an avid reader of all genres, especially
20 historical and biographical works, as well as the classics. He
21 also enjoyed hiking, mountain climbing, running and traveling
22 especially to Nantucket and Hawaii and later in life he enjoyed
23 long walking tours in Europe.

24 Charlie passionately loved music, especially
25 jazz, and especially loved playing his baby grand piano. He was

1 an avid, even legendary walker.

2 Charlie died January 12th, 2018, at the age
3 of 87.

4 Charlie's family has lost a beloved father
5 and grandfather. Society has lost a contributing and exemplary
6 member. The Lycoming County Law Association has lost an
7 excellent practitioner.

8 Your Committee recommends and adopts the
9 following resolutions:

10 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the
11 undersigned, joined by the Lycoming County Bar do recognize the
12 passing of Charles A. Caffrey, Esquire, and recommend adopting
13 the following resolutions.

14 Be it resolved that in the passing of Charles
15 A. Caffrey there has been a loss to the bar of Lycoming County of
16 an able and conscientious member who upheld and exemplified the
17 highest tradition of the legal profession, a loss to the
18 community of a valued participant, a loss to his family of a
19 devoted, kind and loving father and grandfather, and a loss to
20 his friends and acquaintances of a sincere and caring man.

21 Be it further resolved that this Court and
22 this Bar do hereby extend to Charlie's sons, Brian and his wife,
23 Angelique; Michael and his wife, Tamara and his grandchildren
24 Alayna, Anthony, and Patrick a deep and heartfelt expression of
25 sympathy.

1 Be it further resolved that this resolution
2 be spread at length upon the minutes of the Court of Common Pleas
3 of Lycoming County and that copies of the same be sent to
4 Charlie's sons and grandchildren. Respectfully submitted by the
5 Committee.

6 Now with the Court's permission I brought
7 with me today a folder full of chocolate instead of a folder full
8 of paper and you may take a chocolate bar, they have almonds or
9 not on your way out. Charlie was a chocolate lover and I came to
10 town in 1991 to practice with McNerney Page, which was founded in
11 1939 as a labor law firm and back then there was more labor law,
12 there were more private sector employers with unions than we have
13 today and I had the privilege of using Charlie as a mentor, a
14 sounding board. I also at that time practiced with Charlie
15 McKelvey and Bill Vanderlin and they knew Charlie much longer
16 than I did and had worked with him many times in labor matters
17 and many was the occasion that we would be talking about an issue
18 and the idea was raised to call Charlie. See what Charlie
19 thinks. Charlie always offered wise and aggressive counsel. He
20 was no nonsense. He knew the law and he wasn't afraid to use it
21 as needed to advance his case and he was always a gentleman.
22 Always. I was always glad I was on the same side as Charlie when
23 it came to negotiations. He was fierce, but he certainly was
24 always very professional and a gentleman. I've had occasion now
25 to do work with employers who previously worked with Charlie so I

1 get to hear stories from not only those employers, but also from
2 union reps and as mentioned in the resolution during
3 negotiations, you know, it can go on for weeks and you're in
4 lockdown with the other side and you need to develop a working
5 relationship and Charlie was a master of that. So he was in very
6 protracted negotiations, months and months and not really getting
7 anywhere and sometimes good faith bargaining means stay at the
8 table when things are going very bad, meaning, they weren't
9 accomplishing a whole lot and the employer knew Charlie loved
10 chocolate because every time he came in he would go for the
11 chocolate when they'd go back to their own caucus room and the
12 employer bought one of those giant chocolate bars and put it on
13 the table and Charlie came in and they said here's the deal,
14 Charlie, you settle this contract tonight you get that chocolate
15 bar and he did. He settled the contract. It was about midnight,
16 he came back into their office conference room and proceeded to
17 eat most of that giant chocolate bar and they celebrated it.

18 I want to tell another quick story, which
19 really to me belies his demeanor in labor negotiations. He was
20 in negotiations with a union representative out of Pittsburgh who
21 was known to be a bit of a hothead at times and things were not
22 going well and the union representative actually balled up a
23 piece of paper and threw it at Charlie. Now, that's not typical,
24 but that's what he did and he said and you can -- you can you
25 know what with your proposal and Charlie very calmly took the ball

1 of paper and unfolded it and handed it back to him and said this
2 is your proposal. And it was. The guy had grabbed the wrong one
3 and thrown it at Charlie, but it's just like Charlie because that
4 reaction, he was always a gentleman, he was unflappable and in
5 the face of that he just he did what he had to do.

6 So having said that I'm now going to invite
7 Brian, who I had the privilege of practicing with, Brian was with
8 McNerney Page from approximately 1985 until '97.

9 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** '87.

10 **JUDGE BUTTS:** '87.

11 **MR. MARSHALL:** I'm sorry, '87.

12 **JUDGE BUTTS:** It was '86 because I practiced with
13 him when I was a public defender and he was a DA.

14 **MR. MARSHALL:** Okay. I'm sorry.

15 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** Thank you, Your Honor.

16 **MR. MARSHALL:** So 1987 until--

17 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** '93.

18 **MR. MARSHALL:** And then Brian will tell you a
19 little bit more, but he then had the pleasure of working with his
20 father for a bit and Michael is also present with us and you will
21 hear from Michael. So with that I'll turn it over to Brian.

22 **JUDGE BUTTS:** And I said it was okay for the
23 chocolate just don't eat in the courtroom, please, because we get
24 yelled at by maintenance.

25 **MR. MARSHALL:** Thank you, Your Honor.

1 **JUDGE BUTTS:** You're welcome.

2 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** I would never do that. Thank you,
3 Tom. Judge Butts, Judge Linhardt, Judge McCoy, Judge Gray, Judge
4 Lovecchio, I'm so happy to be here and I thank you so much for
5 this ceremony and I also thank the Members of the Committee and
6 the distinguished members of the bar who are here. I see another
7 one I didn't see when I came in. I think this would mean a lot
8 to my father. I'm going to talk about his life and a little bit
9 about his practice and particularly our years together, but there
10 are others who will follow me who have some very interesting
11 things to talk -- to say about his history as well and his
12 associations.

13 My father was of working class origin from
14 the coal regions from Plains, Pennsylvania, right next to
15 Wilkes-Barre and his mother had grown up over a saloon where
16 coalminers would come and drink their pay and she was not a
17 liquor enthusiast as a result of that. My grandfather worked on
18 a railroad and when he was a young kid, as young as age 8, he was
19 what they call a breaker boy. These boys who sat on this
20 incline, incline conveyor belt bent over all day and picked out
21 the impurities and allowed the coal to go down this conveyor. He
22 was born in the depression. His family was very important to
23 him. He had cousins. He had three sisters and a brother, all of
24 whom he revered and his parents as well and that meant a lot to
25 him, really meant everything to him. After he graduated from

1 Wilkes College, as a lot of other people were doing after the
2 war, his -- one of his sisters, his brother, and my mother and my
3 father moved to the Washington, D.C. area. My father worked at
4 the National Security Agency and my mother had a job in the
5 Pentagon and that's where -- we weren't born in the Pentagon, but
6 my brother and I were born in Northern Virginia. My dad when he
7 had two kids and a job and a wife decided he was going to go to
8 law school. He had started out in engineering, that wasn't going
9 to work out so he decided to go to law school and he went at
10 night, got his degree, and then earned a masters in LLM and labor
11 law at Georgetown after having graduated from George Washington.
12 He worked for the NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board, in
13 Washington and those were formative years for him and he made a
14 very, very valuable association with another departed
15 distinguished member of our bar about whom you'll hear more a
16 little bit later.

17 When he was at the NLRB in 1967 a friend of
18 his told him about an opening at Stroehmann Brothers, the baking
19 company, and he took that job. We moved to Williamsport in 1967
20 and my parents bought a house on Vallamont Drive, which was
21 directly behind the home of the former Angela Campana, Angela
22 Lovecchio, and we all went to Stevens Junior High School, which
23 is now an elementary school; but that was a very big event for my
24 father and as I think Mike will be able to tell you a little bit
25 more later, that Vallamont Drive house was central to all of our

1 lives, my dad's life, he worked that place and he turned it into
2 what he wanted to turn it into. I never could understand the
3 pride that he had in that place, but now I do.

4 One thing about my dad is that he was
5 fearless. You couldn't scare the guy. He wasn't afraid of
6 anything and he did stuff I would never do. He put up a
7 basketball court and this house, the driveway of this house where
8 you would be to shoot baskets was on the level of the garages and
9 above the garages was the first story, above the first story was
10 the second story in this cape cod and the bedrooms were up there.
11 And I guess going back to his engineering inclinations, he wasn't
12 going to put this basket, this backboard and the hoop up from the
13 ground, he took it up -- Michael, correct me if I'm wrong -- he
14 took it up to the second story and hung it out the window and
15 lowered it. I don't know how he did this, but he did stuff like
16 that. He also -- he didn't hire painters to paint that side of
17 the house and, you know, when I was a kid that was like a
18 skyscraper being up on that second floor. It must have been, you
19 know, 20, 25 feet from the driveway up to the bedroom windows.
20 He doesn't hire painters, he gets a ladder and he props it up
21 against the house and he carries the paint can up to the top of
22 the ladder and gets up on there and paints the side of the house
23 all by himself and I wouldn't do that today, I wouldn't have done
24 it then. So that was a very, very, important place for him and
25 for us all.

1 He was active, you know, he played basketball
2 when he was in high school, hockey when he was in college. He
3 told me that they used rolled up newspapers for their shin pads,
4 their shin guards, and I was telling Mike and Tom Marshall, Mike
5 Collins at lunch that believe it or not I play hockey myself
6 because we have rinks down in Harrisburg and I want to tell you
7 something, if you get hit with a puck with really expensive, nice
8 shin guards and you're going to feel that, you might even break
9 your leg and if you take one on the skate you could break your
10 foot. So that was brave stuff.

11 My dad was, above all, a devoted family man.
12 He was very loyal and as Tom alluded to, the guy was a straight
13 shooter and you knew what you were going to get and when we were
14 growing up we would hear stories about these labor negotiations
15 and, you know, as Tom alluded to they would sit in that room and
16 they would stay until all hours of the night and they would stay
17 for days on end. My dad would tell us stories about how union
18 reps would threaten to throw chairs and tables at him and, you
19 know, this was back in the late 60's, early 70's, they could get
20 pretty rough. I remember there was a Wildcat Trucker's strike,
21 you might remember some of the people of my age and older about
22 these truckers and there was all kind of labor disruptions and
23 unrest, but he was able to make those guys respect him and he
24 respected them in turn and I think that's what made him so
25 successful as a labor negotiator.

1 After I had practiced at McNerney Page for
2 six years my dad persuaded me to join him and so we had a
3 partnership for three years and it was very interesting,
4 unfortunately, we were way too much alike and we butted horns, we
5 butted horns just like rams on a hillside; but I learned a lot.
6 My dad was a very knowledgeable guy when it came to labor law and
7 he took a lot of pride in that and that was his area. He stuck
8 to his knitting and he was an expert, even a student of it. He
9 had great experience, great relationships with top flight labor
10 attorneys around the state and the guys he knew from the board
11 who went out to private practice. But another thing I admire
12 about my dad is that he knew what he didn't know and he found
13 out. He would find out, go find out what he needed to know and
14 then apply it and that's something I've tried to apply in my own
15 life and my own practice.

16 I would say that the peak of my father's
17 career was his time at Stroehmanns. He was here for 22 years.
18 He started out as the personnel director, that's what he was and
19 that's when they called HR directors personnel directors and he
20 worked his way up into the ranks of the executives and Mike might
21 remember what they called that, Mahogany Row, or whatever it is
22 where the officers had their offices and he became Vice President
23 and General Counsel of Stroehmann. He was very proud of that.
24 He was proud of the relationship he had with Harold Stroehmann,
25 Frosty, who died at the age of 47, I believe, and that kind of

1 put the company into some turmoil. Of course, he opened his own
2 practice after his retirement from Stroehmanns. My dad and I
3 actually tried a case together over in Courtroom 3, I believe, I
4 think it was in front of Judge Kieser.

5 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Would have been 3.

6 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** Yes. And I think -- well, it had
7 to be a jury trial. We were suing a former employee of a client
8 who had been inadvertently overpaid and he didn't want to -- he
9 didn't want to restore the money. So we had a trial and we were
10 successful and we managed to do that okay, you know, we
11 complimented one another and that was a very satisfying
12 experience for me.

13 We noted that my dad or -- we've noted in the
14 resolutions that my dad was kind of a legendary walker. He would
15 walk up Campbell Street hill, you know, to his second home up on
16 Campbell Street and boy, he loved doing that. He loved, Mike
17 will tell you, about his mountaineering exploits and one of the
18 things he did when we were at Old City Hall together, I don't
19 know if Patty Bowman remembers this, but Andree might.

20 **MRS. PHILLIPS:** I do.

21 **BRIAN CAFFREY:** Andree would. Yes, indeed. He
22 would, in the middle of the day, he would change clothes to like,
23 you know, just beat up old pants and a shirt and he started
24 marching up and down stairs, marching up and down, I think this
25 was before they had stair climbers and I thought why are you

1 doing this it's unbecoming and there he would go and he would do
2 it for a long, long time and he would work up a sweat, put his
3 clothes back on and go back into his office.

4 He loved music. I think if he had another
5 career it would have been as a musician. His favorite, well, I
6 think Henry might be able to address that so I don't want to talk
7 about that; but he loved music, he loved playing his baby grand
8 piano, that was his way of getting away from it all. You know
9 the last five years of his life were very difficult because he
10 was a very accomplished guy, very ambitious, great intellect,
11 well read, you know, well rounded and the disease that ultimately
12 took his life is a very cruel one, it's Alzheimer's disease and
13 dementia and it was very difficult for him when he arrived there,
14 but he was in the care of some wonderful people. I thought of it
15 as a waiting room to heaven when he was in that memory unit at
16 Valley View Nursing Center, some of the most compassionate,
17 caring, loving people I've ever been around and I feel as though
18 they are our family. They cared so much for my father. But even
19 when he was in the nursing home he seemed indestructible to me.
20 I don't know how many times he fell and hit his head. He fell
21 and hit his hip. He would fall and hit his leg. He would have
22 bruises. He would have ugly bruises on his head and he would
23 bounce back and he would walk the halls of the nursing home, too.
24 He says I've been walking, I've been walking a lot today. And he
25 had some instances, there was an instance a couple years ago, I

1 guess, when he started to fail, he lost a lot of weight, he
2 wasn't eating, wasn't drinking and we called the priest, called
3 the priest to come over from St. Boniface and he did and my dad
4 rallied from that and he recovered and he was going strong. The
5 cruel thing about Alzheimer's disease and maybe in his instance
6 it wasn't so cruel because it didn't -- he didn't linger in a
7 helpless condition, he was never really entirely helpless, which
8 was a blessing; but eventually he will stop understanding things
9 like eating and drinking and now-a-days nobody is going to force
10 you to eat or drink or take medicine and my father didn't want
11 that and so I got the call one morning that he had passed away
12 and it was sudden; but he didn't have to suffer.

13 I also want to tell you something about
14 something I remember from my early days as a kid living in
15 Williamsport. My dad used to tell us, he always told us about
16 work at the dinner table, you know, it was really the prime part
17 of the day as far as I was concerned. He always got home early
18 if he could and we had dinner together and he would tell us, you
19 know, what went on. He used to talk about being a divorce master
20 for this court and I believe that was in the late 60's circa,
21 1970, and he really enjoyed doing that and he took it very
22 seriously and I looking back on that I don't know where he found
23 the time to do that or how. He had a demanding schedule at
24 Stroehmanns and I don't know how he did it.

25 But he had a great life. I wish his life

1 hadn't had to end in the decline that it did, but he had a great
2 life, he was a great influence on us both. I think my brother
3 and I both have his work ethic and we're never going to get it
4 out of our systems and that was a great thing, it was a great
5 thing to have and it gives you an advantage in life. So I want
6 to thank everybody for the opportunity. I appreciate seeing the
7 members of the Bench here and distinguished members of the Bar.
8 It's something the old man, as we often affectionately called
9 him, would have appreciated. Thank you so much.

10 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Mr. Collins.

11 **MR. COLLINS:** May it please the Court, members of
12 the Bar, family and friends. You know when I think of Charlie
13 Caffrey he knew a lot of us and part of the reason that he lived
14 to a ripe old age, which is not very nice; but we're a little
15 slim here in numbers, okay, and part of that is his age; but also
16 part of that thing with Charlie when he worked as a corporate
17 counsel for Stroehmanns certainly didn't run into a lot of us
18 practicing in Lycoming County. And even after you and he were in
19 practice and he was in practice for a while he would just do
20 labor and employment law now and then. So you didn't have a lot
21 of interaction with him. But obviously being at Stroehmann
22 Brothers, then the National Labor Relations Board, the private
23 practice where a lot of us would see him and Henry and Henry had
24 given me a few things to say on his behalf and on my behalf was
25 at Francos. Francos would have their morning sessions, they're

1 limited to Thursdays now, but they used to be every morning when
2 they were open and Charlie was like clockwork there, okay, and it
3 was always so enjoyable to share a story or listen to him and I'd
4 maybe run into him outside the office and he's walking over and
5 Michael, you know, he would call me like that. I don't know if
6 that's what he did with you, Mike, he would throw out the formal
7 name and then tell a story or two. And what was interesting
8 about him, too, was just how dapper he was. I mean you mentioned
9 him changing and going on walks during the day, but boy he
10 dressed up. I mean I distinctly remember his Panama white hat,
11 which he would put on and he had that air about him and I think
12 Henry mentioned, too, when he walked, he walked with a swagger.
13 He had that confidence, a gentleman for sure; but he had that
14 confidence about him and that was like his personality and that
15 was like his approach to practicing law, too, was meticulous. He
16 was like that. And, Brian, you mentioned, maybe Tom, too, about
17 his love of jazz and I would be able to get into some
18 conversations with him now and then, but especially the piano and
19 Oscar Peterson, that was his -- I find that pretty impressive
20 when I found that I knew enough about it to be able to engage and
21 speak to him about it; but, hell, he could sit down and play it
22 and I always found that was impressive. He not only enjoyed it,
23 he learned to play it and probably would have been a musician if
24 he had his druthers.

25 But there is one thing I want to share and

1 Brian mentioned something about a colleague of his and so, you
2 know, I got to thank Charlie Caffrey, too, for benefiting our law
3 firm and me personally, too, because he was the one who was
4 instrumental in bringing Charlie McKelvey to Williamsport, but
5 what I'd like to go into the more I thought about this was
6 Charlie Caffrey and Charlie McKelvey, McKelvey from Hazleton, St.
7 Gabriels, your father from Sacred Heart in Plains, both in the
8 coal region, both fathers worked in the coal industry, they
9 both--Charlie Caffrey went to Wilkes College and Charlie McKelvey
10 went to Scranton University. They both went into military
11 intelligence, both of those guys. They both get out of military
12 intelligence, they end up in the Washington area. You heard
13 about national security for Charlie Caffrey, they both end up at
14 the National Labor Relations Board, but I should correct that
15 though, too, you mentioned he went to GW, George Washington, your
16 dad did; Charlie McKelvey went to Georgetown. He got a masters
17 in labor law so did Charlie McKelvey. So after Charlie comes up
18 here in 1967, what does he do he after Joe McNerney dies, right
19 around that time he's instrumental in getting ahold of Charlie
20 McKelvey to say, you know, this law firm up here they have a
21 fairly good labor practice, they need somebody and so that's how
22 McKelvey got to Williamsport and got to McNerney Page and that's
23 legendary, you know, being able to practice with that gentleman.
24 But, again, this comes from Henry, not only did Charlie Caffrey
25 like jazz piano, Oscar Peterson, and opera, he really liked

1 champagne and I think it was Chambord from Napa Valley, but his
2 friend, old friend and colleague McKelvey was a 16-ounce
3 Budweiser guy, but the two of them thought highly of each other.
4 I mean Charlie Caffrey spoke at Charlie's funeral mass at St.
5 Boniface, too, so these guys got quite a connection and they go
6 way back in addition to their kids knew each other pretty well,
7 too. So I thank your dad, you know, for that, for helping bring
8 McKelvey here and then thank him, just really enjoyed our
9 association both as a firm, but I know those mornings talking
10 with him and discussing a variety of subjects just one heck of an
11 enjoyable fellow. Thank you.

12 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Mr. Percibelli, did you want to say
13 a few words?

14 **MR. PERCIBELLI:** Not particularly, but I will.

15 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. It's up to you.

16 **MR. PERCIBELLI:** Your Honors, members. The only
17 stories I have about Charlie started at Francos. It was early
18 breakfast. Naturally we would get to Francos and we would
19 discuss various affairs that occurred for that day. We would
20 always come back to the topic of what we were going to have to
21 drink that evening. He loved Champagne, but he also loved wine
22 and we had a big discourse the different areas of wine, those
23 from France, of course, those from Italy I always pushed and the
24 individuals through South America with all the sulfite and
25 Charlie would really go into depth because he had studied it,

1 exactly how this wine was created and what the problem was with
2 the wine and how to solve the problem with the wine industry.
3 About that time I said breakfast is over and I'm going home. He
4 would also we would get into discussions of music. He loved
5 jazz, but we would discuss the difference in jazz. He liked soft
6 jazz. If you like Ramsey Lewis as far as jazz is concerned and a
7 nice dinner music in the evening he would enjoy that. Of course,
8 I loved Earl Gardner, who couldn't read a sheet of music; but, of
9 course, he could pound away on a piano and made a lot of noise
10 and would hum the entire time. So that was a discussion that
11 went on for about a half hour as to what which ones that we
12 should vote for. We were going to have a voting contest to see
13 what the individuals around us would vote for, but that's my
14 remembrance of Charlie and it was quite a happy event. I enjoyed
15 it and I'm going to miss him. Thank you.

16 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Now, the last member of the
17 Committee is a non-lawyer. Mrs. Phillips, did you want to say a
18 few words?

19 **MRS. PHILLIPS:** Well, I've learned from those that
20 have gone before me that I say if it please the Court and honored
21 guests. I've been paying attention. How do you describe a man
22 who is almost beyond description? Charlie Caffrey was a
23 raconteur, a reader, a musician, a wit, a world traveler, a jazz
24 officiendo, a fitness fanatic and a labor law specialist. But
25 best of all Charlie was my friend. Charlie and I met while

1 serving on the West Branch Manufacturers Board of Directors and
2 that was in the early 80's while he was still legal counsel to
3 Stroehmanns Bakery. Later Radiant Steel and I became his very
4 first client when he entered private practice. Besides the time
5 spent on union matters I felt privilege to get to know Mary
6 Alice, Michael, and Brian through our many conversations over the
7 years. Charlie took great pride in his family, his home, and his
8 law practice. One of my fondest memories is Charlie all decked
9 out in his gold embroidered vest enjoying our annual Christmas
10 lunch at the Herdic House. Our last lunch date was at LeJeune
11 Chef where Charlie enjoyed a glass of wine, his entree and
12 dessert, always dessert. I watched while he got thinner while he
13 confirmed directions to restaurants that we had frequented often.
14 We all know the end of that story, but let us remember the
15 beginning, when a brilliant accomplished labor attorney came into
16 our town and won our business, our friendship, and our hearts.
17 That's the Charlie I remember and I always will.

18 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. The Court approves the
19 report and resolution of the Committee and will enter the
20 following order: Now, this 26th day of April, 2018, in
21 consideration of the resolutions presented by the Committee
22 appointed to draft resolutions in the death of Charles A.
23 Caffrey, Esquire, the said resolutions are adopted and it is
24 hereby ORDERED AND DECREED that the resolutions herewith
25 submitted and attached be adopted as an official expression of

1 the Lycoming County Law Association and this Court and that the
2 same be spread upon the records of the Court and that copies of
3 this resolution be delivered to the two sons of Charles A.
4 Caffrey, Esquire and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that said
5 resolutions be entered at large and upon the record of the Court
6 and that they be printed in the Lycoming County Reporter.

7 I'd now like to take a moment to ask my
8 colleagues and also Federal Magistrate Arbuckle if anyone would
9 like to say a few words?

10 **JUDGE LOVECCHIO:** I will. Many of you don't know,
11 but when I -- before I came here I worked in Pittsburgh, two
12 years while I was in law school and four years after I got my
13 license for a firm and I did primarily labor and employment law.
14 And I first met your father when I was a lawyer in Pittsburgh.
15 What happened was I had a case involving -- I was going to do
16 some negotiations with the Teamsters and my client was, I don't
17 know whether they were a potato chip manufacturer or some bread
18 manufacturer, something, I don't know, pretzel manufacturer or
19 something and I remember speaking with the head of the Labor
20 Relations Board at the time, I think his name was Gerry Kobell
21 and he said, well, he knew that my wife was from here he said,
22 you know, you guys have a pretty good lawyer in that area of the
23 state who you might want to get some information from. So, of
24 course, I called him up; but I had to look him up first so I
25 could try to ingratiate myself because I'm thinking why would

1 this guy want to talk to me. So I called him up and I said hey,
2 I understand you're from the coal region, so is my dad. He was
3 from Wilkes-Barre. I understand that you went to Catholic
4 school. I went to a Catholic school. You know I understand you
5 were in the Army. Oh, my dad only made it to the Navy and they
6 were about the same age and I remember talking to him and he kind
7 of softened a little bit, but it was kind of, Brian, exactly what
8 you were saying, he was a no nonsense type guy, okay, what do you
9 want, son? And I kind of talked to him a little bit and asked
10 him some questions and got to know him, but I'll never forget he
11 gave me some great advice and I used it in my negotiations with
12 the Teamsters and I followed up a little bit and I wasn't really
13 sure whether I was bothering him by following up with him and he
14 never made me think that I was bothering him, but the one time I
15 said -- I said, hey, you know Mr. Caffrey I got this unfair labor
16 practice, they gave me this unfair labor practice complaint that
17 said I did something wrong in negotiations and I'm like what does
18 that mean? He said, Marc, it means nothing. Tell them you're
19 going to put it in the drawer with the rest of them. And I said,
20 okay, so I went back and actually did that. They said to me,
21 they said to me, well, so what do you -- I remember in the
22 negotiations, well, what -- how are you going to respond to that
23 unfair labor practice, Mr. Lovecchio? And I said I'm going to
24 put it in the bottom of the drawer with the rest of them and I'll
25 never forget they looked at me stunned; but I'll never forget

1 that advice he gave me. But I was happy to get to know him. I
2 was thrilled that he took the time to meet with me and teach me a
3 little bit and I couldn't help but feel your pain because he
4 reminded me so much of my father and I'm glad you had him for as
5 long as you did.

6 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Anyone from the bar that would like
7 to say a few words or family? Michael, if you want to come on
8 up.

9 **MICHAEL CAFFREY:** I'd love to. Thank you. I
10 appreciate the opportunity.

11 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Sure.

12 **MICHAEL CAFFREY:** Like I said before, I rarely see
13 a crowd that I don't want to talk to. I do want to make a couple
14 of minor corrections. Dad was a great lover of wine and
15 champagne and his favorite champagne, which technically isn't a
16 champagne because it's not grown in the champagne region of
17 France is Schramsberg Blanc de Blanc and I can verify that for
18 you because my wife and I just moved back from Louisiana within
19 the last month or two and as I was packing the house a couple of
20 months ago down in Louisiana dad had gifted us over the years,
21 you know, he would just buy a bunch of bottles of wine for us and
22 I got these incredible bottles of wine, you know, from like 1999,
23 you know, 2000, probably up to like maybe 2007 or 8, which is
24 interesting in its own right because he stopped buying wine after
25 that point in time and that was probably a sign; but in there is

1 2002 Schrambsberg Blanc de Blanc and we're waiting for a special
2 occasion to drink it and got a lot of other really, really great
3 Cabernets and some great French Burgundies as well, which I'll
4 probably have for the rest of the my life quite frankly.

5 My brother, Brian, made an interesting
6 observation and comment about my dad's engineering thing didn't
7 work out cause he went to Wilkes, you know, thinking he wanted to
8 be an engineer and when Brian talked about the basketball hoop
9 engineering project I remember that. I think I was even shaking
10 my head back then when I was 8 or 9, but it reminded me of
11 another one of dad's engineering stories, I called them more like
12 Rube Goldberg Machine because he would construct for, you know,
13 some simple purpose; but he called me one day and this is
14 probably 30 years ago and it was a Saturday, okay, what's up? He
15 said, Mike, I need you to come over. I need to you help me build
16 something so that we can move this. I got this big tree, it's a
17 big, you know, spruce tree and it's in this big, you know, thing
18 of soil and he says it's just huge, it's just going to be
19 impossible so we got to build this thing. Oh, boy I'm going to
20 have to spend my Saturday constructing some sort of Rube Goldberg
21 Machine to transport this and if you knew our property it was
22 sitting in the driveway so I'd have to go up the stairs then up
23 this very steep hill with which had like log stairs to get it up
24 to the top of the place where dad wanted it to be planted. So I
25 went up and got out of the car, looked over saw the thing, it was

1 a big nasty looking tree and I said, you know, I'm not going
2 to -- I'm not going to spend my day doing this. So before I went
3 in to see dad, and bear in mind this is back 30 years ago and I
4 was working out six days a week, twice a day, and I was about 50
5 pounds heavier so I actually went over and I actually picked this
6 thing up and I walked up the stairs and I'm walking up the second
7 set of the stairs and set it on top of the hill and I went in to
8 see dad and he said, okay, are you ready to start? I said I
9 already took care of it. So it was one of the engineering things
10 that we didn't have to deal with. That made his life a little
11 easier.

12 You know, another story he told about, you
13 know, clearing that property because essentially Vallamont, you
14 know, came down from where the cemetery was and it was just
15 mountain, it was woods when we moved there. Most of that back
16 yard goes up that hill was just woods and big mature trees,
17 vines, and we'd play up there and couldn't get through it; but
18 dad ultimately cleared that out and it became just like a lovely
19 glade and, of course, that meant it had to be -- the lawn had to
20 be mowed, which, you know, you couldn't get a rider up there.
21 Jay Livsey, our next-door neighbor, tried to get a rider up there
22 one day to buy it and a guy came to try to do it for him, no,
23 couldn't even do it, couldn't get up that hill it was that steep.
24 But one of my jobs when -- during that process was digging out
25 stumps from the trees that dad would cut down and I told this

1 story at his viewing that I would, you know, get a couple bucks
2 depending on the size of the stump, you know, it was a grade of
3 pay for each one I got out and, you know, so I would dig these
4 things out. Let me tell you it was myrrh, all it was was myrrh,
5 hard woods because those things go down forever. It's not like
6 they're easy roots to get out and all this time I thought I had
7 negotiated a really good rate as then as I got older realized,
8 wait, my dad is a labor attorney? I think he out-negotiated me
9 by a mile that I got 2 bucks for a stump to dig out. But that
10 Vallamont was a special place I think for all of us and it's only
11 fitting, I think, that Pop is resting now in Wildwood Cemetery
12 and I was just up there Monday because I was in State College and
13 I came down here to visit his grave and, you know, as you stand
14 where his grave is and where the marker will be as soon as that's
15 ready shortly and you look here and you look here up from his
16 site where he's resting is that's where the -- that's where the
17 first house was he lived on Vallamont, right over the other side
18 of the mountain and the second one was right up at the top of the
19 cemetery, you could actually walk right through to it so it's
20 fitting that he's buried and resting and as will mom be at some
21 point in time right where they spent the last, you know, 50 some
22 years of their lives.

23 The, you know, kind of another interesting
24 story about dad and kind of, you know, how at least how I felt
25 about him and I'm sure Brian felt the same; but, you know, dad

1 was, you know, he could be edgy, but he was never -- he wasn't a
2 physical disciplinarian, but he could really raise his voice and
3 he would give you the dickens, which scared the bejeebers out of
4 me and ultimately it became an issue of gosh, I just don't want
5 to disappoint my dad. So wind back the clock 40 years and I was
6 what 18 at the time and I was with another friend of mine whose
7 father was a member of the bar and I hope there is no statute of
8 limitations on bad judgment or underage drinking, but we went out
9 and raised a little cane one night and I had to report for work
10 at Stroehmanns at the bakery at 7:00 the next morning and because
11 we did that that's what we did years between college and grad
12 school so I worked five summers there and it was good work, it
13 was hard work, it was difficult work and it was the type of work
14 that made you realize what you didn't want to do for a living and
15 study hard and work hard when you're basically the sweat, the
16 Stroehmann sweat I called it was paying for your college. But I
17 showed up at 7 the next morning not feeling particularly great
18 and I made it until about 9:30 and had to tell my supervisor that
19 I had the flu and 40 years is a long time, I don't remember how
20 this happened; but I remember being transported home in my dad's
21 car and boy did he lay into me the whole way home and it was all
22 about, you know, how I had disappointed him and, you know, the
23 irresponsibility and tomfoolery that we had engaged in and really
24 disappointed him and I for years till now not to do that and not
25 to disappoint dad again and I did many times, trust me, I'm a

1 flawed human being; but it was always here, it was always here in
2 my mind and I would go out of my way to make sure to think of
3 that what am I doing I'm doing it through the filter of Charles
4 Caffrey and is that going to pass muster. A lot of stuff didn't,
5 but hopefully most of it did.

6 Another thing my dad, and I'm thinking about
7 it a lot tonight and today, the NFL draft and we grew up in D.C.
8 so dad was a Skins' fan and, Brian, you probably still are a
9 Skins' fan; but I remember dad talking about this Jim Brown guy
10 from the Cleveland Browns and he was the greatest football player
11 ever. You got to see this guy. And so I'm about to start my
12 what 55th or 56th season as a Browns' fan and you'll notice
13 today, the draft day, I'm wearing Cleveland Browns cufflinks and
14 the fact that I'm a Browns' fan is a tribute to my father. Tough
15 life.

16 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Yeah.

17 **MICHAEL CAFFREY:** But it's a tribute to dad and,
18 you know, he always encouraged us in everything that we did; but
19 he never pressed us to do something that was a goal -- that would
20 be a goal of his. In other words, you know, I was the one
21 that -- I was the dumb one who decided not to become an attorney
22 and I remember growing up, in college, and everything else I
23 don't think dad ever mentioned to me did you ever think about law
24 school? I just don't think he ever did it. He just encouraged
25 us to do the best that we could, you know, 110 percent was always

1 his fly word, but he never pressed us to do something that maybe
2 we didn't want to do but he wanted us to do and that was, I think
3 that's a tribute to dad, too, and it's -- I think we all turned
4 out pretty well, but I'm still kind of kicking myself in the rump
5 every once in a while for not going to law school. I decided to
6 become a banker. Geez. How about that? Big mistake. I think
7 that's -- I mean I just wanted to share a couple of stories and
8 just some remembrances, too.

9 You know the most difficult thing I think
10 that really has occurred to me and the most difficult thing I've
11 done is watching my parents decline and, you know, dad was a
12 very, you know, you heard it from a lot of people here he was a
13 great intellect, bright guy, loved life, intrigued by life, and
14 intellectually curious and, you know, to watch mom and dad
15 decline and they declined jointly was a difficult thing. We
16 didn't recognize it at first and I'm working with a fellow right
17 now down in Lancaster, he's going through the exact same thing
18 and I was with him last night and I said I know where this -- I
19 know where this story began and I know where it's going to end
20 unfortunately. His mother is -- was in a nursing home, you know,
21 banging like crazy to get out of there. You got to take me home
22 you gotta take me home. My parents did the same thing. We
23 couldn't take them home because there was nobody to care for
24 them, neither Brian or I lived around here, you know, there's no
25 daughters that could take care of mom and dad and they took mom

1 home, he took mom home, the fellow that worked for him, got the
2 Comfort Keepers, the overnight 24-hour care, just like mom -- our
3 parents did, they fired them and three weeks later, you know,
4 they're basically in a nursing home and I said I hope that
5 doesn't happen that way; but I've seen this story and I've read
6 the book and that's probably how it's going to end. But I would
7 rather remember mom and dad and dad, particularly, in the
8 Adirondacks with me in the white mountains doing the presidential
9 traverse on Nantucket and just doing the things that he loved and
10 our trip to Europe when we were about 14, yeah, 14, 15, 13, 14,
11 15 just enjoying life and loving life and just that's the way I
12 want to remember my folks, not the last 5, 5 1/2 years they were
13 so difficult to watch and even the years before that as the
14 memories -- the memories started to fade and, you know, all of a
15 sudden dad wasn't recognizing mom and thinking people were
16 breaking into the house and it was just a very tough time and,
17 you know, eventually I think a lot of us if we had not already,
18 will go through those types of things with our loved ones and
19 possibly even with ourselves with our children having to watch
20 that. But in the meantime I'm going to think about -- I'm going
21 to think about dad and I in the Adirondacks in five degree
22 weather sharing one sleeping pad, sleeping in a lean-to and just
23 freezing our rear ends off and having a great time. But thank
24 you all. I appreciate you all being here today and thank you.
25 Thank you again.

1 **JUDGE BUTTS:** You're welcome. Would anyone else
2 like to share their thoughts or memories? Well, then, ladies and
3 gentlemen, this would now conclude the Memorial Service for
4 Charles A. Caffrey. I'd like to thank, again, the family and
5 friends and members of the Bar who are in attendance here today
6 and this special session of court then is adjourned.

7 (Whereupon, the Memorial Service concluded at 5:00 p.m.)
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