

R A M S E Y C O U N T Y B A R A S S O C I A T I O N



Memorials

Friday, April 25, 2003
Jerome Hill Theater
U.S. Bank Trust Building
180 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota

Two o'clock

"It is not length of life, but depth of life."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

The traditional opening remarks
and introduction of dignitaries
of the Chief Judge of the District Court
were omitted from the booklet of the
Memorial Proceedings of the
Ramsey County Bar Association
for the year 2003.

IN MEMORY OF

Mary G. Conley

Daniel F. Foley

Otis H. Godfrey, Jr.

Carlos W. Luis

Paul J. Marino

John M. Mason

Dennis McPartlin

Edward Novak

Michael Perelstein

Robert G. Renner, Jr.

John C. Rowland

MARY G. CONLEY

May 9, 1912 - May 10, 2002

Mary G. Conley, born in New Hampton, Iowa, on May 9, 1912, died after a short bout with pancreatic cancer just one day after her 90th birthday. She lived independently in Roseville, Minnesota, until walking into the hospice late April 2002.

Mary's character was shaped in part by her parents. Her father, Frank, was a two-term mayor, county attorney, and school superintendent, who died as a practicing attorney driving a client to Chicago to prevent a farm foreclosure. Her mother, Jensen, was a one-room schoolteacher before marriage. Mary and her three sisters were raised to value education for women, love reading, be involved with their church, and actively participate in community affairs and the political process. One of Mary's earliest memories was going with her mother when she voted for the first time after suffrage was passed. Lively political discourse at all family gatherings was the norm.

Mary obtained a degree in social work from the College of St. Catherine, did graduate work at the University of Chicago, and earned her law degree from the St. Paul College of Law, her father's alma mater. She worked for the USO in Kansas City and New Mexico during World War II. Her career at Catholic Charities extended for over 30 years where she served families and mothers in prenatal and adoption programs, now known as Seton Services.

She was always a believer in the Catholic Charities' mission. Mary was never too busy for the people she cared about and worked with. She gave her smiles freely and always approached others with a non-judgmental, respectful attitude. She was quick to recognize the things in a person's life that influenced their decisions. She never viewed morality of others in terms of black or white. Regardless of what situation people were in or their background, she never criticized their choices, but her common response was to always say, "I'll pray for you."

Father John Malone met Mary in his first parish ministry at Incarnation Parish in South Minneapolis where she was an active parishioner in the 60s and 70s. Fr. John found Mary to be one of the least judgmental people he had ever met. Over a 30-year friendship, he observed that she was never to be bothered by making judgments about people, just concerned with helping others.

Mary was characterized by her wicked Irish sense of humor, deep faith and passionate belief in the Democratic Party. She was a staunch supporter of Senator Paul Wellstone and was proud of her state senator, John Marty. At the time of her death, she was still subscribing to both *Minnesota Law and Politics* and *Minnesota Orchestra Coffee Concerts*. She enjoyed traveling along the North

... MARY CONLEY cont'd

Shore. She was the life of family gatherings and dearly loved her godchildren, relatives and friends.

Although Mary received her law degree from the St. Paul College of Law in 1954, she continued to serve at Catholic Charities as a social worker, using her legal talents to counsel families and assist adoptions. One of Mary's cousins continues her work with families, serving as Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator for the Hennepin County Library. Mary left generous gifts at her death that will continue to serve as a beacon of her care for others, including substantial legacies to Catholic Charities, her home parish of St. Rose of Lima, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the College of St. Catherine and her family.

Mary is survived by her sister Margaret Conley of Goleta, California, and many cousins. Although Mary never married and had no issue, she considered all the families and children she dealt with at Catholic Charities part of her extended family. Mary's family and friends dearly miss her and will cherish her memory always.

Respectfully submitted by Cousin Gretchen Wronka, Fr. John Malone and Hugh Markley

Daniel F. Foley

October 9, 1921 – August 17, 2002

How do sons sum up their father's life in a few short words? It's impossible to sum up Dad's life in a few short words. No length of words could ever adequately do it justice. Dan Foley was a man whose life was a eulogy in the making.

In looking at the life he led, it's clear that he was moved by the interweaving influences of his family, the church, the law, and of course, the American Legion. From those influences, his faith led him to lead his life mindful of what he had done and of what he had failed to do. On the surface, it seemed there was little he failed to do. What to him seemed like failure, led to something else.

Dad's military service with the Marines got off to a rough start when they told him he had no leadership ability. Instead he was drafted into the Army, where he met our mother. She, being a New Yorker, and also outranking him, encouraged him to attend Fordham Law School in New York City. He also eventually turned his "lack of leadership ability" around and became National Commander of the American Legion.

He practiced law in Wabasha, Minnesota, for 18 years, starting out by working for his father, John R. Foley. When the time came for him to take over the practice, he brought his brothers Gene and Patrick along. They got an equally rough start when Dad drove them past the poor farm as he discussed what their salaries would be.

In 1966, he became a district judge and everything changed. Judges no longer thought like lawyers. He began the process of bringing along countless lawyers in their careers as he tested those who appeared before him. We've had numerous lawyers tell us about the first time they appeared in front of him. It always made a lasting impression on them. The stories almost always started out the same way: Dad would meet with them in chambers and then say, "Well, let's go get you baptized." He was everything a judge was expected to look like and be. He always treated counsel fairly and always with lightning quick wit.

Dad served 17 years on the district bench in Albert Lea, Austin, and Rochester, wading through the seamy side of criminals, broken marriages and failed contracts. Each case was no more important than the next. For the parties whose only contact with the court and a chance at justice was Dad, he was the embodiment of justice.

When he wasn't sure about applying for the new Court of Appeals, we remember saying to him that it might be a nice way to wind up his career. Nine years

... DANIEL FOLEY cont'd

later he had to retire at age 70. Thanks to Chief Justices Sandy Keith and Kathleen Blatz, and Chief Judge Edward Toussaint, his retirement only lasted the weekend. He was back on the bench on the following Monday and worked another 11 years. A Westlaw search showed 1,226 appellate opinions under his name.

Dad's idea of retirement was different than most. Instead of fishing, he worked five days a week and, while most would've rested, he became a Lay Eucharist minister and delivered communion to the sick and dying.

His Legion life was equally amazing. Rising through the ranks, he became the first Minnesotan to become national commander. In the process, his life criss-crossed with Truman, McArthur, Pope John 23rd, Pope Paul VI, Kennedy, Johnson, Humphrey, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush. As a Democrat, he was the designated escort for the party's standard-bearer — standing beside McGovern, Mondale, Dukakis, Clinton and Gore at the National Legion Convention. If anyone doubted Dad's strength of character or loyalty to the party, imagine standing beside George McGovern or Bill Clinton at the American Legion convention.

As many know, he was the last person standing at President Kennedy's grave. He did it because he thought the President, fellow Legionnaire, deserved to have someone present when he was placed in the ground. He was always part of the Legion and it was part of him. For Dad, it was not so much, "For God and Country," as it was, "For God and Countrymen."

He touched the lives of so many, sinner or saint. We once talked about his death several years ago and when asked how he wanted to go out, judge, knight of St. Gregory or past national commander, he simply replied, "As your father."

What an incredible, wonderful life he led. From our childhood to the present, he would say someday you'll look for the touch of the vanished hand and the sound of the voice that is still. Dad's hand may have vanished but we feel it's touch and we'll always hear his voice.

Respectfully submitted by Rory Foley, Tom Foley and the entire Foley family

Otis H. Godfrey, Jr.

November 16, 1924 - July 17, 2002

Otis H. Godfrey, Jr. was a longtime member of the Ramsey County Bar Association and a distinguished jurist of the Ramsey County bench. Otie was proud to have represented the third generation of Godfrey's to practice law in Saint Paul, dating back to his grandfather, Percy Downing Godfrey, Jr., who began his practice in 1891, followed by his father, Otis H. Godfrey, who joined the bar in 1917.

Otis H. Godfrey, Jr. was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on November 16, 1924. Otie grew up in Saint Paul and attended Central High School. He completed his high school education at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, and then enrolled at Yale University.

Like many others of the time, in 1943, two months shy of his 18th birthday, Otie joined the war effort of World War II and enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served his country as a nose gunner in a B-24 bomber flight crew in the South Pacific. In 1944 and 1945, Otie and the crew of "Wendy's Wagon" of the 5th Air Force successfully completed 44 bombing missions. During his return trip to the United States, on board a troop transport ship, Otie was stricken with polio, resulting in the permanent atrophy of his right calf.

On February 2, 1946, Otie was married to Jean K. Keys. He completed his education at Yale University, graduating with the Class of '45W, and from the University of Minnesota Law School. Otie was admitted to the bar in 1950. From 1951 to 1953, he served as a special assistant attorney general for the state of Minnesota, and then opened his own office in Saint Paul as a sole practitioner. In 1961, Governor Elmer Anderson appointed Otie as a judge of the Ramsey County Municipal Court. In 1968, he was elevated to the Ramsey County District Court upon his appointment by Governor Harold LeVander. In 1978, prior to the creation of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Judge Godfrey served by appointment as a Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Judge Godfrey proudly served the public, bench and bar, as a Ramsey County judge for nearly thirty years until his retirement in 1991.

While serving on the Ramsey County bench, Judge Godfrey had a reputation as an excellent judge and a tough taskmaster. He was intelligent, demanding, decisive, and knew the law. He also had a great sense of humor and enjoyed the day-to-day give-and-take involved in serving as a judge and working with the members of the bar that came before him.

Judge Godfrey was a distinguished leader within the legal community. Throughout his career, he was active in the Ramsey County and Minnesota

... OTIS GODFREY cont'd

State Bar Associations. He served as president of the Minnesota District Judges Association and the International Academy of Trial Judges. During his retirement, shortly before his illness, he served on the Minnesota Jury Instruction Guides Fourth Edition Committee.

Judge Godfrey was a community and civic leader. He served in a leadership role in a number of organizations, including Saint Paul Area Red Cross, Saint Paul United Way, YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, YMCA Camp du Nord, Hallie Q. Brown House, Martin Luther King Center, The Loft/Summit University Teen Center, Friends of the Parks Saint Paul, Saint Paul Jaycees, Linwood Recreation Center Booster Club, Saint Paul Tennis Club, Keller Golf Course Men's Club, Saint Paul Club, City & County Credit Union, Ancient Landmark Masonic Lodge No. 5, Minnesota Masonic Foundation and House of Hope Presbyterian Church. He took great pleasure in having served as a volunteer youth hockey coach for 35 years. In 1976, he served as the grand master of the Masons of Minnesota.

In January 2000, Otis H. Godfrey, Jr. suffered a debilitating stroke. After a long battle against the effects of this stroke, Judge Godfrey passed away at his home in Saint Paul on July 17, 2002.

The Honorable Otis H. Godfrey, Jr. is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jean; his seven children, Otis III "Tracy" Godfrey (Ann), Carol Warren (Tom), Louise Jones (Richard), Barbara Kuykendall (David), David Godfrey (Lois), Paul Godfrey (Mary Sue), and Timothy Godfrey (Julie); as well as 15 grandchildren.

Respectfully submitted by Timothy C. Godfrey and Paul W. Godfrey

Carlos W. Luis

March 19, 1919 – October 23, 2002

Carlos Luis was a man of many talents and accomplishments. Whether you met him as a lawyer, corporate executive, lobbyist, golfer, actor, sports fan or neighbor, he is remembered as a person of genuine compassion and solid intellect – you always remembered him in a positive way and with a streak of mischief.

He was raised in Hayfield, Minnesota, where he played football and got into a little mischief. Carlos went on to St. Olaf College where he was a champion boxer and made more mischief. Later, St. Olaf honored him as a “Distinguished Alumnus.” After graduating with a degree in chemistry in 1940, he accepted a teaching position at Triumph/Monterey (now Trimont) High School where he also coached football. There he displayed his innovative and imaginative qualities. In those days, in eight-man football, the center snapped the ball shotgun-style to the ball handler, but Carlos had the center line-up with his back to the defense, so he could pitch the ball accurately to anyone behind the line. The maneuver was legal, but the center’s backside felt different after a game!

Carlos’ second year of teaching was interrupted by Pearl Harbor. He joined the Navy, which sent him to the Naval Academy in Annapolis. While there, he met Edmund Muskie, later Governor and U.S. Senator from Maine and U.S. Secretary of State. The pair became life-long friends. Shortly thereafter, he met Lillian, a WAVE stationed at Treasure Island, California. They were married during his brief leave from the Pacific theater. After the war, he came home to a wife and newborn son, finished his master’s degree at the University of Delaware, and returned to Minnesota to teach at Shakopee.

By 1950, Carlos had advanced to principal of Shakopee High School. By then the family had grown to include three sons, but he still found time to act in community theater and manage circulation of the Minneapolis newspapers in the growing community. Then came a dramatic career change – he enrolled at the Minneapolis College of Law, a forerunner of William Mitchell, and took a night-shift job at the 3M plant in Cottage Grove. After law school graduation, he moved into the 3M legal department. He worked at “the Mining” for 34 years, retiring in 1984 as Vice President of Public Affairs. A highlight period was from 1972-1975 when Carlos, Lillian, and their daughter lived in Washington, D.C. where Carlos was 3M’s Vice President of Federal Affairs. In those days, their home in suburban Bethesda, Maryland served as Minnesota’s “Washington Capitol,” as they entertained the state’s congressional delegation and the renowned “Minnesota Twins” – Chief Justice Burger and Justice Blackmun.

At 3M, Carlos was known for his incisive legal analysis and common sense business judgment. He was a problem solver. He always comported himself

... **CARLOS LUIS** cont'd

with the highest integrity and expected it from others. He was a man for all seasons.

Retirement from 3M in 1984 lasted only three weeks when Carlos took an executive position with Hubbard Broadcasting, which he held for 13 years. During those years, he was instrumental in helping Stanley S. Hubbard raise funds for pioneering satellite broadcasting. He and Lillian became close friends and confidantes of Stan and Karen Hubbard. Carlos also continued to serve on the boards of the Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry, the National Association of Public Affairs Officers, Indianhead Boy Scout Council, HealthEast, and St. John's University.

Carlos continued to show the strength of his character after he suffered a disabling stroke in 1997. Bravely, he remained cheerful, retained his famously rich sense of humor, and charmed all the staff at Rosewood Estate until the end.

He is survived by Lillian, his wife of 57 years, and their four children: Richard and wife, Juanita, of Little Canada; David of Sydney, Australia; Keith of Austin, Texas; and Debi and husband, E.J. Edwards, of Scottsdale, Arizona. His beloved grandchildren, Max and Rebecca Edwards, now emulate their grandfather's renowned story-telling prowess to the great joy and amusement of friends and relatives.

Carlos and Lillian greatly enriched their family's life by traveling to various parts of the U.S., and later, the world, with the entire family. His children thank him for instilling in them a concern for others, a sense of exploration and adventure, and intellectual curiosity.

Carlos Luis will always be remembered as a man who had time and affection for all, regardless of their station in life.

Respectfully submitted by Richard and Juanita Luis and Charlton Dietz

Paul J. Marino

October 29, 1936 - March 14, 2002

Paul J. Marino was a champion for the powerless. Paul was born in New York City of Sicilian parents in 1936. He served in the Marine Corps Reserves while attending City College of New York, graduating in 1962. He earned his J.D. at the University of Chicago Law School in 1965.

Paul's legal career began when he joined fellow New Yorker and dear friend, Bernard Becker, at the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Paul soon became an expert in landlord-tenant law. He drafted and secured enactment of landmark tenants' rights legislation, including laws on retaliatory eviction, tenants' remedies, and covenants of habitability. Paul became the Legal Aid Society's executive director in 1970 and held that position until 1974 when he joined the William Mitchell College of Law faculty.

During his twenty-seven years at William Mitchell, Paul taught Torts, Evidence, Employment Law, Work of the Lawyer, and Professional Responsibility. Along with Bernard Becker, Paul founded Mitchell's Immigration Law Clinic.

Paul earned the admiration and affection of thousands of Mitchell students. They loved the dramatic flair he brought to the classroom and enjoyed his use of props and a "class villain," carefully chosen to be the good-natured foil for various hypothetical situations.

Students appreciated Paul's concern and approachability. Paul was the professor most likely to be found talking to students in the student commons. He participated in many extracurricular programs, advising students in client counseling competitions, judging moot court arguments, and presenting programs on discrimination and the practice of law.

In addition to teaching, Paul maintained his support of legal assistance to the poor and disadvantaged, and he was active in bar association committee work related to lawyers' professionalism and the drafting of rules of professional conduct.

Paul also was very active in the National Lawyers Guild. He served as the Minnesota chapter's president for two years and was a longtime member of the chapter's steering committee. He played a key role in the national organization's Committee on Corporations, the Constitution, and Human Rights.

Paul retired and became a William Mitchell emeritus professor in January 2001. He had barely begun his retirement when he suffered a near-fatal auto accident

. . . PAUL MARINO cont'd

in Wisconsin, and then, was diagnosed with cancer. His health deteriorated inexorably until March 14, 2002, when he died peacefully at his home.

Paul is sorely missed by his beloved daughters, Maria and Angela; his two grandchildren, Pablo and Adriana; his former wife, Betty; and his colleagues, friends, former clients, and former students. Paul aptly summarized his career in his Mitchell faculty website:

"As an attorney and law professor, I have tried to provide effective legal representation and voice to those who too often are left behind economically or face discrimination in our nation. Nothing makes me prouder than former law students who tell me that I helped spark their interest in the legal services or pro bono work they are doing now."

Respectfully submitted by Kenneth Kirwin

John M. Mason

October 31, 1938 – June 8, 2002

Magistrate Judge Jack Mason died on June 8, 2002, but I don't have to believe that if I don't want to.

Jack died unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack while bicycling around Lake Pepin with a group of friends. He was 63. His sudden passing has deeply saddened so many members of the community he spent a lifetime enriching.

John (Jack) M. Mason was born into a loving family in Mankato, Minnesota, on October 31, 1938. Jack's father, Milton Mason, was a very distinguished state district court judge for many years. Jack's mother, Marion, was one of the first women attorneys admitted to practice in Minnesota.

Jack graduated from Mankato High School and then Macalester College, where he received his B.A. cum laude in 1960. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1963. Jack's wisest decision while at Harvard undisputedly occurred on August 25, 1962, when he married Vivian McFerran. Jack had a brilliant legal career, both in the private and public sector, but that does not begin to capture the depth of his accomplishments and contributions. Jack practiced law with the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney from 1963 until his appointment as a United States magistrate judge on March 1, 1995. He took short leaves of absence from the firm to serve as Minnesota Solicitor General in 1971 and as Chief Deputy Attorney General of Minnesota in 1972-1973.

Jack was very proud to follow in the judicial tradition of not only his father but also his brother, Jim Mason, who has recently retired as a district court judge in the Mankato, Minnesota area. That tradition is now being extended to a third generation; Peter Mason, Jack's son, is an attorney and is presently clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Janis Graham Jack in Texas.

Jack's participation on various boards is far too extensive to list in its entirety. At the time of his death, he was a member of the board of directors of the Ordway Music Theater where he'd served for over ten years. He was also a member of the National Advisory Board of Concordia Language Villages, chair of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for this district, and an elected member of the Minneapolis Board of Education from 1973 to 1980, twice having served as the board's chairperson. He also served for many years on the boards of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics, Macalester College, the Minneapolis Planning Commission, and he was president of the Harvard Law School Association of Minnesota for some years.

... JOHN MASON cont'd

Jack had his priorities very much in order. The great loves of his life were his wife of 40 years, Vivian, and their three children, Kathleen, Peter and Michael. It was a joy to see Jack with his family. They were very closely knit and the love they had for one another was obvious to all who knew them.

The professional and personal accomplishments listed above are impressive by any standard, but Jack was much more than the sum of all his many parts. He had a joy for living that he imparted to all who were with him. It was hard to come into contact with Jack without breaking into a big grin. He had a terrific sense of humor and a very deep and real passion for life and social justice. Jack made it a practice to hire law clerks with minority backgrounds and he devoted enormous effort to promoting such hiring practices among the larger law firms in the Twin Cities area. He took considerable pleasure in presiding over naturalization ceremonies and always spent time with the new citizens, proudly demonstrating his multiple language skills.

Jack was my professional colleague on the magistrate judge bench for seven years. He was a very close personal friend for more than 40 years. I loved him as so many loved him, and it is only now in his shocking passing that I begin to realize what it is that we have all lost.

Respectfully submitted by the Honorable Jonathan Lebedoff

Dennis W. McPartlin

March 12, 1951 – May 20, 2002

Dennis William McPartlin was born on March 12, 1951, in Austin, Minnesota, but he spent most of his life in Saint Paul. Dennis graduated from St. Mark's grade school, Cretin High School, the University of Minnesota, and William Mitchell College of Law. He was a nephew of U.S. Magistrate George "Porky" McPartlin. While in law school, Dennis clerked for Ramsey County District Court Judge Otis Godfrey.

Dennis was admitted to the bar in 1979 and practiced law on West Seventh Street for over 20 years, proud to represent individuals of modest means. He was counsel on two reported appellate decisions. Dennis also served 17 years as a conciliation court referee, even though the compensation never changed from \$50.00 per day.

In the late 1980s, Dennis became a contract deputy examiner of titles and then a part-time staff deputy examiner. He whittled down a big backlog of cases and became the "go-to-guy" for answering attorneys' questions on thorny probate/real estate cases. Dennis also heard a series of contested cases as a referee; none were reversed or remanded. Unfortunately, his hopes of sitting as a district court judge were cut short by his early death.

Dennis' demeanor and legal acumen were equally responsible for his success. He brought to his clients, colleagues, opposing counsel, and judges a light spirit, which took the edge off unpleasant confrontations and also cheered the discouraged.

Dennis was a constant presence at the Ramsey County Bar Association's social events and monthly CLEs. He also chaired the RCBA's Pro Se Litigant Assistance Committee for four years. In addition, he was a past president and a long-time board member of the West Seventh Community Center. Prior to assuming his semi-judicial duties, Dennis was active in the local DFL party.

His wife, Theresa, wrote in a eulogy,

"Dennis was an extraordinary, ordinary man. He moved through life with a disarming innocence, which he never lost even as he faced death. He deeply loved his son, Terry, his family, and his friends. He had strong ties to St. Mark's and to Cretin, now Cretin-Derham. He was proud of leaving home at eighteen and paying his own way through the U of M and 'Billy Mitchell.'... He loved Saint Paul and was committed to living in the city. He enjoyed sports— watching the Saints 'wild and outside'— and bowling with the Monday-night guys. He looked forward to trips to the Ordway, good

... DENNIS MCPARTLIN cont'd

meals in a variety of Saint Paul spots, unlimited screenings of 'The Quiet Man,' our many travels, marching in the St. Paddy's Day parade, reading books of all kinds, playing blackjack in downtown Las Vegas, grilling on real charcoal, McKellin parties, and of course, savoring the wee drop or two."

According to Theresa, Dennis had two cardinal rules of life: First, never pay for parking; and second, there is no job you should ever do standing up that you could do sitting down.

Theresa also wrote that Dennis taught her four lessons after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer on December 1, 2000. The first lesson was courage. Dennis battled his cancer with courage and hope, and when circumstances changed, he faced them with realism, surrender, and a sense of peace. The second lesson was the importance of work in our daily lives. Dennis clung to his daily schedule as a means of keeping focus and familiarity during his illness. He came into the office every day until six weeks before his death. The third lesson was humor. Dennis talked freely and often joked about his illness and death. The fourth lesson was living in the present. During the 18 months following his diagnosis, Dennis savored the time he spent with Theresa and with his family and friends in what he called his Farewell Tour.

The way Dennis dealt with his illness is a lesson for all of us. As a lawyer, judicial officer, colleague, and a decent human being, Dennis made this world a better place and made our lives brighter.

Dennis McPartlin died on May 20, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Theresa Kelly McPartlin; his son, Terrence, and daughter-in-law, Heather; and by many grateful and admiring colleagues and friends.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Beutel and John Richardson

EDWARD NOVAK

April 16, 1917 - November 4, 2002

Ed Novak liked to be called "Ed." Ed was born at home in 1917 to grocery store owner Boleslaw and Barbara Novak. In grade school and high school, he delivered groceries, first by coaster wagon, then bicycle, then car.

Ed, a graduate of Cretin High School, was a fisherman and hunter, and had a sense of humor. He and his school buddies liked to take off after classes on Fridays for hunting or fishing and return on Sunday morning in time for church. Once, while attending Mass after returning from hunting, he discovered a woodtick crawling on him. He picked the tick off his clothing and placed it on the back of the pew in front of him. The lady next to him got up and moved away.

In the early 1940's, Ed was a licensed pilot. He was known to fly over the home of Evelyn Woodham, tipping his wings to the gal he would marry.

Ed Novak graduated from the University of St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota and the St. Paul College of Law, now William Mitchell. He held J.D. and LL.B. degrees. After graduation from law school, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent in Texas, Illinois and New York. He often said the FBI was his favorite job and he left only because of family commitments.

After leaving the FBI, Ed Novak took a position in the enforcement division of the War Assets Administration. He later owned and operated Novak's Liquor Store on Wabasha Street and opened a law office on Rice Street, both here in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1959, he was elected to the Senate seat once held by his father, B.G. Novak, and represented St. Paul's North End and Frogtown. All who knew Ed respected him as a man of principle and commitment. A lifelong DFLer, Ed had the respect of his senate colleagues. He sat next to Gordon Rosenmeier, a Republican leader, who often talked with members of his own party with Ed seated nearby because Rosenmeier knew their conversations would go no further. Besides, Ed really was deaf in one ear.

Ed authored the bill for two-line fishing but was against the sales tax because it would hurt families and, once passed, it would be too easy to increase that tax or make it apply to everything families bought. He became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, one of the most powerful leadership posts. In 1979, he was named Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner. As public safety commissioner, he delighted in visiting state patrol outposts but was outraged

... EDWARD NOVAK cont'd

when he discovered the offices were staffed but not open to the public. Rest assured that practice did not last long. He told his staff that our job was to serve the public. And that phrase pretty much summed up his political life — to serve the public. After retiring as public safety commissioner, he served as a conciliation court referee.

Ed Novak was a real dichotomy because, despite his public career, he was very shy and preferred to work behind the scenes. He was never big on crowds and gladly steered clear of the limelight.

Finally, although his public service was an important part of his life, so were his faith and his family. Ed and Evelyn Novak raised three children and greatly enjoyed, and were proud of, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Friends and colleagues characterized him as honest, compassionate and ethical. To his family he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Respectfully submitted by Maridee Nagel, Bill Novak and Rick Novak

Michael Perelstein

August 17, 1951 - March 12, 2002

Our lawyer, Michael Perelstein, passed away last year.

The Justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court recently proclaimed that lawyers should aspire to conduct themselves in an “upright and courteous manner.” That describes Michael. Professionalism was his aspiration and trademark. A practicing attorney could not leave a richer legacy.

Michael attended Bradley University and graduated in 1978 from William Mitchell College of Law. After seven years in the private for-profit law business, he ventured into the unfamiliar territory of non-profit telecommunications law. With each year, Michael made increasingly valuable contributions to the success of Twin Cities Public Television. Undoubtedly, this was because he was smart, savvy, and had a natural curiosity that fed his determination to learn our business.

But Michael was not just our lawyer. He was a very good friend of Channel 2. He loved to take off his lawyer hat and go on television during our famous pledge drives to implore viewers in the sincerest way to become a member. He derived his greatest professional satisfaction from helping us to further our mission. He negotiated the funding for our most celebrated local and national productions, including “Hoop Dreams,” the multi-award-winning story of struggling African-American high school athletes in Chicago.

Michael lived life to the fullest. He was a devoted husband to Gail and father to Danny and Jenny. He had a special warm and loving relationship with his sister, Liz, and her family. He had diverse and close friendships in the Jewish and larger communities.

In the early 1990s, Michael began a second career as a singer, using his voice, humor, and natural abilities to entertain at weddings, parties, and musical series around the Twin Cities. He later ventured into production, culminating in his life-long dream of creating a retrospective of the life and music of Frank Sinatra. We may be presumptuous, but we think that Sinatra would have been just fine with Michael recreating the “Man and his Music,” even though the venue was the Bryant Lake Bowl on Lake Street, not the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

Michael’s versatility in music and styling amazed people. His repertoire allowed him to do Sinatra, transition to bring an audience to its feet with Van Morrison’s “Brown Eyed Girl,” energize the room with “Great Balls of Fire,” and then close the set with country or Louis Armstrong.

... MICHAEL PERELSTEIN cont'd

Someone once said, "Music should go right through you, leave some of itself inside you, and take some of you with it when you leave." Mike was music. His song will always live inside of us, and we know that he has taken with him some part of all the lives that he touched.

Always an optimist, someone who lived life fully, Michael often ended his evening performances with Louie Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

*I see trees of green, red roses, too
I see them bloom
For me and for you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world!*

Respectfully submitted by Twin Cities Public Television

Robert G. Renner, Jr.

January 22, 1951 - December 11, 2002

Although Robert G. Renner, Jr. enjoyed only 51 years of life, he lived those years with integrity, good humor and gusto. He made his mark professionally and personally. Bob left many friends, political associates and a wonderful family with irreplaceable, happy memories of a unique individual.

Bob was born in 1951 and spent his childhood in Walker, Minnesota, the oldest son of Colleen and Robert Renner, Sr. His cousin and closest friend, Jack Meeks, said in commemorating Bob's life at his funeral, "Bob loved, respected and emulated his father ... he followed his career path into law and government. Bob had a very special relationship with his mother, Colleen. He knew he brought a twinkle to her eyes. He said it was because he was the oldest child, but he knew it was because he was like her in so many ways. He always enjoyed having a good time with Colleen—sharing stories and banter amidst plenty of laughter."

Bob grew up in Walker with three siblings, Anne, Richard and David—all of whom were with him, swapping humorous stories of their life together before Bob's death at home on December 11, 2002.

Bob's life, like his father's, was immersed in politics beginning with his high school class presidency, his term as president of the Cass County Teenage Republicans, and his assistance on his father's successful campaigns for the Minnesota legislature.

Bob earned a baccalaureate degree from the University of Notre Dame and graduated cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law. He worked as a researcher for the Senate Republican Caucus and then joined the gubernatorial campaign of Al Quie. Governor Quie subsequently appointed Bob as his director of policy and legislation, taking a primary role in reforming the state's Byzantine tax policy. He also served the Governor as commissioner of energy, trade and development.

Bob's experience with both the legislative and executive branches proved invaluable as he moved on to a position with the law firm of Messerli and Kramer in its governmental relations department. Bob became a principal and a partner in the firm, and chair of his department. Bob excelled as a lobbyist and was recognized by *Mpls. St. Paul Magazine* and the *StarTribune* as one of the state's five top lobbyists. He helped establish the coalition of suburban governmental entities known as the Municipal Legislative Commission, one of his primary clients. Among other groups for which he lobbied were the Deputy Registrars and the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS). In a memorial for Bob

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in the MSPS publication, Gary Harris, past president of MSPS and a personal friend of Bob and Heather's, summed up Bob's tremendous capability for forging the kind of relationships that get things done in the quirky world of legislative politics:

"Bob weaved his web of expertise across the legislative landscape and was able to bring other groups, associations and businesses into conformance with our ideas and goals. He also was a master at knowing when to retreat with grace and avoid battles that could not be won, thereby saving us sure embarrassment and tempering those of us that wished to take on challenges that were beyond our grasp."

But for all of Bob's political and professional pursuits, challenges and successes, it was his family that sustained him. He met his wife, Heather, when they worked together in the Quie administration. They enjoyed traveling together, whether to Paris to see new sights or back to Walker to renew old acquaintances. Their daughter, Victoria (Tory), was born in 1992 and immediately became the light of Bob's life. He was especially proud of her fast emerging writing skills and was so fond of a poem she wrote expressing her feelings that it was included in the program for Bob's funeral service.

Besides Bob's close relationship with his own family, he also developed close and rewarding relationships with Heather's parents, Bill and Doris Fraser. Bill succumbed to cancer two years before Bob, and Doris was a strong survivor who helped Bob deal with his illness—and complete his daily crossword puzzles.

When not working, Bob filled his time with a variety of hobbies and pursuits. Among them were golfing, birding, gardening, sailing, and building model airplanes—and just enjoying life and his family.

Bob's uncle, Father Thomas Clarke, presided at a mass of Christian Burial on December 16, 2002. Bob's cousin, Jack Meeks, and Governor Al Quie provided personal recollections of the wonderful man they and many others in attendance remember with fond memories and great affection.

John C. Rowland

December 3, 1925 - March 12, 2002

John C. Rowland, age 76, died unexpectedly at his residence in North Oaks. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bettie Park, and survived by wife, Jean Carnes Rowland, and brother, Robert Rowland. Although born in Jackson, Minnesota, Jack grew up in Saint Anthony Park and graduated from Murray High School in 1943. Having just commenced his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota, he was inducted into the United States Army on January 29, 1944. Jack attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was an Operations Specialist with the 36th Infantry Division assigned to the Central European Theater. He was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and, for his invaluable efforts, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Jack was honorably discharged on April 26 after meritoriously serving his country for more than two years. Upon discharge, he promptly returned to the University of Minnesota where he completed his undergraduate work and earned a law degree in 1950.

Jack's father was a civil engineer and head of the right-of-way division for the Minnesota Highway Department. Following the Rowland family tradition, Jack spent many summer vacations working with MnDOT's right-of-way survey crews. After his state bar admission, he became a member of the Deputy Attorney General's staff in the highway department. He served in that capacity for more than three years, examining land records statewide for right-of-way required by MnDOT. In 1953, he entered the general practice of law in St. Paul with Joseph P. Tracy. When construction of the interstate highway system began, Jack vigorously represented private landowners. Excelling in this endeavor, he quickly became a specialist in land condemnation cases. Jack practiced law for a total of 35 years, 20 as a partner in the firm of ROWLAND & MERTENSOTTO.

Jack was an ardent supporter of the Mayo Clinic where he and his wife sought medical treatment for more than 25 years. In recognition of his wife's care and treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, Jack funded the Bettie Park Rowland Endowment for joint replacement research with the Mayo Foundation. He retired in 1988 to selflessly care for his wife, Bettie Park, after she underwent a complete cervical spinal fusion.

Jack was a true professional and was well respected among his peers. Though generally soft spoken and a stickler for proper diction, he alleviated difficult situations with subtle humor. He often stated that his good attributes and mannerisms were inherited from his mother, whom he appropriately held in high esteem.

During younger years, rarely a winter passed when Jack was not downhill skiing on Ajax Mountain. He was an avid walleye fisherman and, during the summers,

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spent time on a houseboat at Leech Lake and 'manning the ship' of his cruiser on the Mississippi River. In later years, Jack escaped the frigid Minnesota winters, preferring the beaches and sun of Aruba. There he acquired a fondness for speaking Spanish. His wife, Jean, was his ardent traveling companion, graciously enduring Jack's repeated attempts to master the language. They attended classes in Santander, Spain and, ultimately, Jack developed his own more humorous than accurate dialect. In recent years, this mild-mannered counselor regularly worked-out with a personal trainer and even acquired kickboxing skills.

Jack, our lives were enriched by your acquaintance. We miss you and are thankful that you were able to share many years and laughs with us.

Respectfully submitted by Charles E. Mertensotto and Jean Carnes Rowland