

**THOMAS A. BECKLEY, ESQUIRE  
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

**DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
Presented in Special Session  
Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania  
Dauphin County Courthouse, Courtroom No. 1  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
October 25, 2023**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE COURT, our colleagues at the Bar, and family and friends here today to celebrate the life of our colleague, friend and, for some of us, father, Thomas A. Beckley.

Tom was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania, on May 29, 1933, the son of C. Owen and Dorothy Taylor Beckley. His father was a civil engineer employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Tom moved frequently around the Commonwealth before his parents settled in Camp Hill. Tom graduated from Camp Hill High School in 1951 and from Dickinson College in 1955, where he served as the Cadet Colonel of the College's ROTC program. After graduation, he served for two years on active duty as an officer in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, most of which time he spent stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. His duties took him behind the Iron Curtain and afforded him the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and North Africa. Tom greatly enjoyed his military service and for a time considered making the Army a career.

While at Dickinson College, Tom met Mary Louise Sanford, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In 1957, after Tom completed his tour of active duty, the two married and Tom entered Dickinson Law School, where he served as Articles Editor of the Law Review. Upon graduation in 1960, he accepted an appointment as an Honor Graduate with the National Labor Relations Board in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a field attorney. After a year, he accepted a

position with Rhoads & Sinon in Harrisburg, where he worked closely with Paul Rhoads, of whom he always spoke very highly. In 1969, Tom became one of the founding partners of the Harrisburg law firm now known as Mette, Evans & Woodside, and in 1973 he established Beckley & Madden, where he remained senior partner until his retirement in 2013.

While Tom always regarded himself as a general practitioner, he was probably most known for his work as a construction lawyer and a management labor relations attorney. He maintained a multi-state construction law practice and, in addition to representing several trade contractors' associations, he helped found and for more than 50 years represented the American Subcontractors Association of Central Pennsylvania. He also handled both private and public sector labor negotiations and disputes throughout Northern, Eastern, Central and Southcentral Pennsylvania.

Being a lawyer was not just a career for Tom. It was who he was. He normally worked seven days a week and was proud of the service he gave to his clients. His word was his bond, and he impressed upon those working with him the importance of civility and maintaining one's credibility in the practice of law. He served on the Joint State Government Commission's Advisory Committee on Decedents' Estates Laws, testified before Congress concerning issues relating to federal labor law and established a legal writing award at Dickinson Law School. He was admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the Supreme Court of the United States and numerous federal courts. All of Tom's four children followed his footsteps into the law, and three of them joined his firm, including our sister Liesl, who is a past Bar President and also serves as a Magisterial District Judge in Cumberland County.

When he was not working, Tom enjoyed taking his family on "mystery" vacations to Europe, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Each year, he composed a poem containing clues about the destinations on that year's itinerary. The family member with the most correct answers earned a

little extra spending money for the trip. Tom particularly liked Walt Disney World, which he visited at least 25 times.

Tom read voraciously and, along with Jon Lafaver and Charlie Stone, was a charter member of the “Bumblers.” He loved military history and anything to do with airplanes or submarines. On several occasions he went for rides in vintage World War II aircraft, and on his office wall he kept a picture taken of him hanging in mid-air while para-sailing in Key West. Tom had an engaging sense of humor, a fine singing voice, and liked music, automobiles (especially fast ones), golf and vodka on the rocks – although not necessarily in that order. He also enjoyed taking the family’s English bulldogs for rides in his 1964 Ford pickup on Saturday mornings to fetch the office mail at the Federal Building, after which he would play soccer with them in the yard.

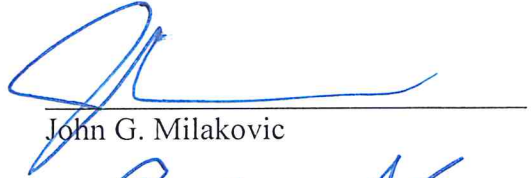
Tom was a member of the Allegheny County, Cumberland County, Dauphin County, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. He was a 32nd Degree Mason. He served on the Board of the Leukemia Society and was active in the Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, where he served as a Deacon and an Elder and was instrumental in establishing the Church’s Foundation.

Tom Beckley passed from this life on August 10, 2023, at the age of 90. His wife Mary, to whom he was married for 63 years, died in 2020. In addition to his four children, Charlie, Fred, Liesl and Tom, he is survived by his sister Ann Barasch and her husband Mal, his brother-in-law Rear Admiral Frederic G. Sanford, II, M.D., three daughters-in-law, two nieces and four grandchildren. Tom was a formidable presence in his dark suit, white shirt and tie, and a fine lawyer who preached the value of education and the virtues of hard work. He will be sorely missed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Bar Association mourns the death of Thomas A. Beckley and extends its sympathy and condolences to his family and friends.

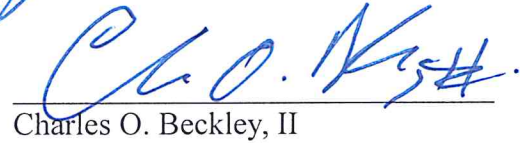
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this memorial resolution be placed on the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed with the office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his family.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee on the death of Thomas A. Beckley  
this 25th day of October, 2023.



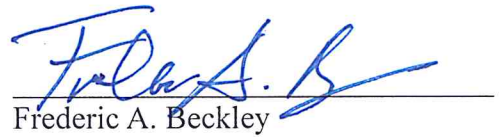
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John G. Milakovic



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Charles O. Beckley, II



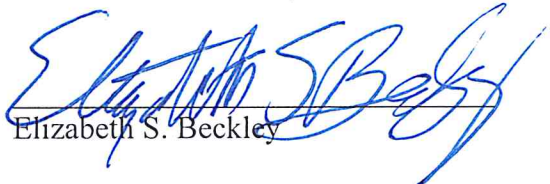
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Frederic A. Beckley



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Frances Ruml Beckley



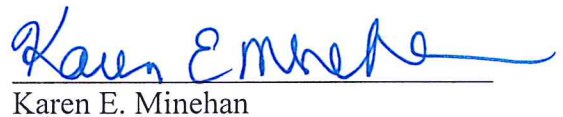
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Elizabeth S. Beckley



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Thomas S. Beckley



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Karen E. Minehan