MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON THE DEATH OF CHRISTINA MARIE TARANTELLI

We lost Christina Marie Tarantelli on June 24th. In her passing, the Bar has lost a distinguished and a well-regarded practitioner, loving daughter, sister, cousin, niece, aunt and life-long friend – generous in so many ways.

Born May 16, 1954 in Schenectady, NY to Lois and Peter Tarantelli, Chris was one of seven children. Chris grew up in New York in a large and proud family who traced their roots back to Italy. Chris was very proud of her heritage and over her lifetime, she made many trips to the country of her origin. One best realized the impact of her Italian roots through her cooking.

Chris could really cook- some of her Italian specialties were amazing and try as I did, I was never quite able to make them taste as good as she could. Many of her friends would agree that being laid up sick was almost welcome because you had Chris's food to look forward to. One friend, Linda Lloyd, reminded me about her amazing butter cream icing cupcakes which were the best ever as well as all of the other sweet treats she would bake but rarely eat.

Chris went onto college and received her B.A. in Business Management from the State University at Albany and embarked on a career in Retail Management with Thom McAn Shoes that lasted 15 years. That job not only gave her a lifetime infatuation with shoes, but sparked her interest in the law. When seeking a change of career, that same legal spark caught fire with Chris as she became employed in the law profession and began work as a paralegal. She furthered her education and in 1993, she received her Juris Doctorate at Widener University. After graduating from law school, Chris came to work at the UCBR –that is where I met her and looking around the courtroom, I see many of her UCBR friends who maintained longlasting friendships- Chris last worked for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a judge in the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Affectionately known as "the hammer" to her family, she ran a fair and balanced courtroom, and she wrote thoughtful and well-reasoned decision.

Chris resided in Harrisburg, PA for many years and loved this city. Before she became ill, she frequently rode her bike up and down Riverfront park and the Greenbelt. When she needed to leave her home in Harrisburg due to her illness, it was such a devastating blow to have her home, her things, and her independence taken from her. Her friends and family were there for her every step of the way- helping her sort out her things, making her feel better about donating her stuff or giving to someone in need. She gave a lot of trinkets to my daughter Caroline- pieces of costume jewelry — a little leather change purse. Every trinket came with a story which given her disease, which was like early onset Alzheimer's, always amazed me. Her travel stories inspired both of mu kids to want to travel and see what Chris described. One of the gifted trinkets, a little leather pouch from Africa, still sits on my daughter's nightstand and it is a constant reminder to Caroline of "Ms. Chris"

When she left Harrisburg, Chris had lots of clothes and shoes to sift through. She had a very stylish fashion sense and until the end, she was always put together well.

Chris was very spiritual and participated on mission trips to Africa and Central America. She became deeply involved in the Church's mission and in helping others. We all admired her for her devotion to her missionary efforts. From each place she visited, she brought back pieces of that place through clothes, jewelry and photos. Her house, apartment and later room at Country Meadows had walls covered with all of those memories and trinkets.

Let me speak briefly about her disease. Essentially it was like early onset Alzheimer's but it was way more than that. It was a degenerative brain disease that mimicked Alzheimer's in its symptoms but also took her vision. She was diagnosed after her nurse friend Carol noticed some unusual and forgetful actions. Because this condition moved so very quickly in its attack of our friend, once diagnosed, she had to give up driving and her job as the disease was so severely progressed. While most persons understand the impact that Alzheimer's has on one's memory, Chris's particular disease

severely affected her vision. As Chris progressed in her disability she was forced to fight through her decreased memory and vision at the same time. Because of her vision and forgetfulness, it became clear to her family and friends that she was unable to live at home anymore. She then had to give up her 3 story townhouse to move to a retirement facility where she had an apartment at Country Meadows in its independent living. It was crushing for her- she was surrounded by people 20-30 years older than her who were more interested in what was for dinner (usually something with gravy as Chris would say) than in anything educational or cultural. While her vision still remained, she did become a Wi Bowling champ at Country Meadows. Eventually the disease robbed her of sight and she was legally blind when she passed away.

What can't be captured in this resolution is how loyal Chris was as a friend. Her commitment extended beyond personal relationships. She was a steadfast advocate for the Dauphin County Bar, the Court, Widener, and her church. Contributing to the wellbeing of these institutions satisfied a basic tenant of her core beliefs.

Chris died as she lived, with strength and courage. For about four years, she persevered a fight with a degenerative disease which robbed her of her independence, the job she loved, her precious memories, her vision and her life. But it did not rob her of her friends and family who remained a constant in her life until the end. Chris's passing brings a large emptiness to me, Marty and our kids and to her friends and family. Chris is survived by her siblings: Thomas Tarantelli of Rotterdam, NY; Karen Ungaro of Winter Park, FL; Nicholas Tarantelli of Milford, NY; Joseph Tarantelli of Scotia, NY; Peter Tarantelli of Troy, NY; and Valerie Tarantelli of Amsterdam, NY and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and a multitude of lifelong and loving friends and colleagues.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Christina Marie Tarantelli, the community has lost a true and respected citizen, the Bar has lost one of its able practitioners and her family and friends have lost an affectionate and devoted friend and sibling.

And resolve further, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Christina Marie Tarantelli, and tender our sympathy and condolences to her family

And further resolved, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to her family.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah C. Yerger, Esq

Chairman

Jonathan Kunkel Esquire

Linda Lloyd/Esquire

Martin Cunningham, Esquire

Irene Bizzoso, Esquife

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