MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
UPON THE DEATH OF
DONALD J. MURPHY, ESQUIRE

Donald J. Murphy was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was born on April 5, 1924, to the late John J. and Ida J. (Neher) Murphy, and died on July 23, 2019, at the age of 95, surrounded by his loving family.

He was a loyal graduate of Army Special Training Program at Michigan State University where he received training in engineering principles.

Don was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater in Okinawa and the Philippines at age 21. He was part of the General McArthur’s Rear Echelon Signal Corps. He was a member of the “Greatest Generation”, and would have participated in the planned invasion of Japan, but for the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which effectively ended World War II. The military had expected the American casualties of that invasion to be at least 250,000, and possibly 1,000,000. Don believed that those bombings likely saved his life and the many hundreds of thousand others who were part of the force to invade mainland Japan.

He was a graduate of the University of Scranton and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Following graduation from law school, Don was in private practice in Scranton for a short time before becoming an attorney for the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and relocating to the Harrisburg area. He spent 30 years providing distinguished service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the Department of Revenue, the Dept. of Justice, and finally the Office of Attorney General. He retired from the Commonwealth as a Chief Deputy Attorney General and head of the tax litigation group. Throughout his years at the State, Don mentored countless young attorneys who were benefited from Don’s tutelage and advice.

Not content to rest in retirement, Don then practiced law with Calkins and Campbell in Harrisburg, retiring finally from the practice of law in 1999.

He was subsequently appointed as a public member of the PA State Board of Funeral Directors, serving on that body for 15 years, including two terms as Chairman of the Board.

He was a member of the Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County and Dauphin County Bar Associations, and proudly carried his gold 50-year member card in his wallet at all times. He was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court and had the rare privilege of arguing a case before the Court.

First and foremost, Don loved his family – his wife, his children, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren. He also loved the law, sailing the Chesapeake Bay, Saturday morning yard sales, and traveling the USA and the world. Puerto Rico was a favorite wintertime destination.
Donald is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 72 years, Jeannette C. (Howey) Murphy and by his daughters Michele Silfies (Jim) of Jupiter, FL; Marilyn Murphy (Benjamin Ahles) of Mechanicsburg; and Maureen Murphy (Ellwyn Andres) of Mechanicsburg. He is also survived by grandchildren Marc LaCasse (Jen), Jeannette Kothe (Jim), Eric Sitko (Michele LaFontaine), Paul Murphy-Ahles (Becky), Benjamin Andres (Lizzy), and Zachary Andres, as well as seven great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association mourn the death of our colleague, Donald J. Murphy, and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary of Dauphin County, and that copies be transmitted to his widow and family.

Respectfully Submitted, this 16th day of October, 2019.

Loudon L. Campbell, Esq., Chairman

Bryan E. Barbin, Esq.

Paul Murphy - Ahles, Esq.