

JAMES F. CARL, ESQUIRE
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Presented in Special Session of the
Court of Common Pleas
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, October 13, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, our colleagues at the Bar, to Jim's beloved wife, Stephanie, and family and friends, my name is Mark Silliker, and I am honored to be here today as we gather to celebrate the life of our colleague and dear friend, Jim Carl.

James F. Carl, was born on July 6, 1942. He passed away on October 30, 2019, at home with his loving and devoted wife, Stephanie, and two beloved Westie dogs, by his side.

Jim was born in Harrisburg, PA to the late Bennie F. and Betty F. (Stultz) Carl, and was the loving husband of Stephanie N. (Newcomer) Carl.

Jim was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in the Intelligence Department from March, 1968 until February, 1971, during the Vietnam War era.

He was an active member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, and was a member of the Dauphin County Bar Association, practicing law for 45 years.

He was a graduate of Newport High School Class of 1960, Dickinson College Class of 1964, and the Dickinson School of Law Class of 1967. He was admitted to the bar in 1967, and practiced law with the law firm of Metzger Wickersham for over 40 years before he retired. Jim actively participated in the Dauphin County Bar Association and he was a former chairman of the Young Lawyer's section.

When Jim started practicing in 1967, lawyers tended to be general practitioners and nobody specialized in any one field. As a result, there was a lot more contact between lawyers. Likewise, everybody's office was downtown then, so attorneys were always bumping into each other. Over the years, Jim did defense work, specializing in workers comp. He would religiously do his pro bono family law commitment. When I was a Custody Conciliator, he would come in once or twice a year doing pro bono custody cases. He always took his work very seriously, but he was always a steadfast gentleman. It seemed like he knew everybody in Harrisburg, not just lawyers, but people on the street, or for that matter, in restaurants and bars. Simply stated, Jim was always around and he was always a happy presence.

He enjoyed going to lunch at the Harris House Bar and Grill which was on Third Street before they tore it down. I am not suggesting anything, but Jim was a lot happier walking out than walking in. Jim was always a consummate professional. He was nice to everyone, including opposing counsel and his opponents. He never sought to beat anyone up and he tried to settle cases and come to an otherwise amicable conclusion. Jim was easily one of the most liked people in town. Believe me, everybody liked Jim Carl.

Jim was always there to help people. When I first started practicing law, I saw him a couple of times at the Workers Compensation Bureau. I pretty much had no idea what I was doing. I was impressed watching him, because he seemed to know what he was doing. Likewise, he got along with everybody. After one hearing, I walked up and introduced myself and asked him if we could meet up sometime and I could pick his brain. He eyed me kind of suspiciously, and I suggested we meet up over a couple beers and talk. He broke into a big grin, chuckled, and said "Oh sure, we can do that. I would love to do that." We did, and we did it more than once. Over the years he helped me a lot.

Jim would always walk around with a serious look on his face. However, the second he saw someone he knew he would always break into a great big grin and start to chuckle. It was a laughing "hello". I will never forget the warmth of his smile and chuckle. I repeat, he liked everyone, and believe me, everyone liked him. He was truly a testament to our profession. Before Jim married his wife, Stephanie, I used to see him on a regular basis around town, a lot of times coming and going from the Harris House. After he married Stephanie, that changed. I used to see him and Stephanie a lot more at the Brownstone in Middletown, and they always used to love to go out for ice cream all over town. He was a real expert on where you could get good ice cream.

Jim enjoyed watching baseball and was a Senators super-fan. You could usually find him sitting in the stands behind home plate, rooting for his team. He also was an avid reader, Civil War enthusiast, and loved volunteering his time with the Maryland Westie Rescue.

Jim fought a long and courageous health battle for many years. Even as his body began to fail him, his mind never did. His niece, Karen, also an attorney, could be found at his bedside reading Purdon's statutes to him or PBI yellow books, and only those related to Workers' Compensation. Jim requested the annotated version of the cases and would carefully explain the holdings and rationale to anyone in the room. The nurses and other visitors would be bored, and tended to scatter. At one point, thinking he was resting or asleep, Karen quit reading. Jim's response was, "keep going". Karen later learned that he looked forward to these case readings to "keep his mind spry". That it did to the very end!

Jim is survived by his wife Stephanie of 33 years, two daughters, Katherine Carl and Wendy Bond; his sister, Winnie (Carl) Wetzler; two grandsons, Julian and Tommy; and his niece, Karen (Wetzler) Miller (partner at Daley Zucker).

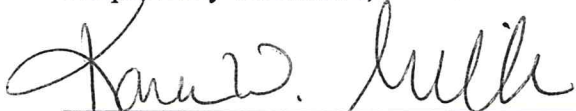
I am very honored to be here and no one lives forever, but I am still very sad. Jim will be missed by everyone who ever knew him, and anyone who ever came in contact with him. They don't have lawyers and people like Jim much anymore, and that is a shame. They simply don't make 'em like Jim Carl anymore.

Therefore, be it resolved that in the passing of James F. Carl, the bar, the Court, and the community have lost a friend, a mentor, a professional colleague, and valued citizen. We miss him greatly and we tender our sympathy and condolences to his widow and his family.

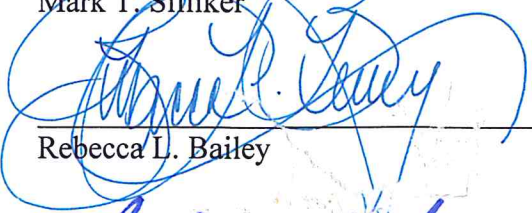
Be it further resolved that we reaffirm for ourselves that the life example he gave us of civility, professionalism, and of service to others is one which we would do well to emulate.

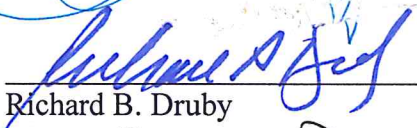
And resolved further that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and copies transmitted to his widow and his family.

Respectfully Submitted,


Karen W. Miller, Chair


Mark T. Siliker


Rebecca L. Bailey


Richard B. Druby


Lacy Hayes, FR


Karl R. Hildabrand


R. Burke McLemore, Jr.


Steven J. Schiffman


Hon. Lori K. Serratelli


Clark DeVere