

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM W. CALDWELL II

On May 19, 2019, the Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and federal benches and bars lost one of their most dedicated and accomplished jurists, the honorable William W. Caldwell, II. Judge Caldwell—as he will forever be known—passed away that morning peacefully, surrounded by his family, after serving the state and federal bench for nearly 50 years. He was 93 years old.

Judge Caldwell was a lifelong resident of the Harrisburg area. Born here in 1925, he no sooner graduated from William Penn High School and turned 18 years old than he began his life-long pursuit of public service by enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served this nation honorably during the final years of World War II. Following his military service, he attended Dickinson College and then Dickinson School of Law, receiving his law degree in 1951. That same year he married the brilliant and beautiful Janet Garber, the love of his life, to whom he was wed for 68 years. They raised four children together and were a prominent Harrisburg couple involved with many community organizations.

Judge Caldwell began his legal career working with his father and brother from 1951 to 1970. He recalled that one of the big days in the firm was when the office acquired an electric typewriter. From 1963 to 1970, he served as counsel and chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Arbitration of Claims. Having developed a superb reputation as an excellent lawyer after nearly 20 years in private practice, including several years as a part-time assistant district attorney, Judge Caldwell embarked on his distinguished judicial career in 1970 as a Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas judge. In that role, he spent a dozen years handling civil, criminal, and family law matters, especially enjoying the trials over which he presided.

In early 1982, while conducting a hearing, he received a call from President Ronald Reagan. Needless to say, a short recess was taken, during which President Reagan asked Judge Caldwell if he would consider a position as a federal judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Judge Caldwell graciously accepted. And, true to form, rather than calling his wife

or friends to share the exciting news, he promptly returned to the courtroom to finish his duties with the case he had put on hold.

In what was undoubtedly a different era, Judge Caldwell was nominated in February 1982 and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate less than 30 days later. Notably, nearly all of Judge Caldwell's family attended his confirmation hearing, including his wife, his mother, his four children, his siblings and their spouses, and his long-time secretary, Joan Olley. He had such a strong showing of support that another district court nominee, Judge Glenn Mencer—who had no family members in attendance—remarked with gratitude that “Judge Caldwell and his family have adopted me for the day.” That is certainly the kind of family man Judge Caldwell was. When questioned by the committee Chairman about how he would wield the considerable power of a federal judge, Judge Caldwell replied in classic fashion, “There is no reason why judges cannot be as courteous as they should be and still be quite effective.” As his colleagues and anyone who practiced before him can surely attest, Judge Caldwell never strayed from this philosophy during his time on the federal bench.

One often-told story concerns a particularly difficult criminal defendant, whom Judge Caldwell had sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment. At the sentencing hearing, this defendant loudly and dramatically questioned how he could possibly serve that much time, to which Judge Caldwell calmly responded, “I believe you'll do the best you can.”

“Unflappable” is frequently used to describe Judge Caldwell, and I must agree. His poise and demeanor on the bench, as well as his ever-present concern for expediency, created a courtroom atmosphere of both professionalism and a healthy amount of trepidation for practitioners. He was not one for long-windedness—if counsel had a point, they should make it with all due haste.

But Judge Caldwell was never curt or disrespectful, and his love for the judicial system was reflected in his thoughtful written opinions as well as his 48 years of service. As my colleague, the Honorable John E. Jones III, put it, “Judge Caldwell was a judge's judge and a truly iconic figure both in the

Dauphin County bench and bar and among the federal judiciary and bar. He was truly beloved.” He *was* truly beloved, and he will be sorely missed.

A devoted public servant, veteran, loving grandfather, father, brother, and husband, the Honorable William W. Caldwell II has provided this nation and this community with a legacy of distinguished and erudite jurisprudence, as well as a legacy of warm, friendly, and loving relationships.

We could expound, but we acknowledge that we are in this august courtroom—one in which Judge Caldwell presided. Recognizing his familiarity with this courtroom and channeling his judicial process predilections, we will promptly conclude this resolution in his honor, as he would want to make quick disposition of this resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER

RICHARD LEWIS

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Memorial Resolution Committee for William W. Caldwell II