

## **Stephen J. Keene, Esquire Memorial Resolution**

Our friend Stephen James Keene passed away on October 27, 2018. He was 59 years old.

From the beginning, Steve was contrary, independent and restless. He was an Irish boy from Lancaster, the son of Richard, a Navy veteran of WWII, and Regina Shane, a nurse. Steve looked markedly different from his three brothers and sister; he inherited his dark eyes and hair from his aunt. He grew up in Neffsville, outside of Lancaster, and graduated from Manheim Township High School. His next stop was Penn State University. He took classes in between part-time jobs. A few years into his studies, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he trained as a Radioman and served for nine years. He was stationed in San Diego, California and Groton, Connecticut and, for a time, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1986, he was detailed to the search and salvage mission for the Space Shuttle Challenger on the Florida coast.

After active service, Steve returned to Penn State to get a Bachelor in Economics degree in 1990 and then spent three years in Carlisle working toward his Juris Doctor from the Dickinson School of Law. Through Dickinson's Public Interest Law Clinic, he found a position as a legal intern with the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate.

In 1993, he moved again. This time, to downtown Harrisburg, when he joined the firm Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall. Here, he found his calling as a litigator. In 1997, Steve was re-hired by the Office of Consumer Advocate as a senior attorney.

During the nine years that Steve was a Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate, most of his litigation practice was in the natural gas and electric industries. His work on rate cases, mergers and restructuring saved money and improved service for millions of Pennsylvania ratepayers. He earned the respect of his colleagues and coworkers for his depth of knowledge and ability to balance vigorous advocacy with civility.

In his personal life, Steve was less restrained and enjoyed argument for its own sake. He had a strong opinion on everything and rarely conceded a point. One memorable example was the Great Spice Debate. It began when Steve claimed to be a gourmet

chef. His offer of proof was the number of spices he owned. To bolster his numbers, he insisted that ketchup was a spice.

Although Steve stayed in Harrisburg longer than most places, he was never still and rarely at home. If the Nittany Lions were playing in State College, he was there, working as an usher on the north upper deck of the stadium. Other days, Steve might be tailgating at a Ravens game, golfing in Myrtle Beach, or floating in a hot air balloon over Albuquerque. Wherever he was, he was scouting out the best chicken wings and meeting new friends.

Steve looked 10 years younger, and acted 20 years younger, than he was. His energy and enthusiasm for new experiences were contagious. Everyone in his orbit has a story about somewhere he or she went for the first time with Steve – a Springsteen concert, an Orioles' home opener, a Rafael Nadal match or, for many, the Preakness Stakes.

Steve loved traditions and stubbornly adhered to them. July Fourth was spent watching fireworks from his fire escape overlooking the Susquehanna, the Kentucky Derby required handmade hats, Christmas meant a tree decorated solely in Penn State blue and white, and Easter called for a spam lamb.

Steve moved to California in 2006 to work for an electric and water utility in the Imperial Valley, and spent his weekends in San Diego. Within a few years, he moved permanently to the coast and took an Associate position with a private firm, focusing on renewable energy law.

Old friends visited him regularly and he happily toured them around Pacific Beach, the San Diego Zoo, Coronado and Del Mar. He traveled East often, for Christmas and sporting events. Each May, he maintained his favorite tradition – a weeklong trip to Rehoboth, Delaware. The beach house was filled with friends who hailed from Lancaster, Penn State, Dickinson, Harrisburg and San Diego. Steve was the link between them all and relished that role.

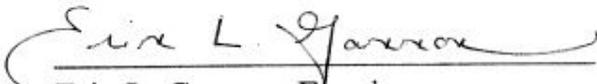
He celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in Rehoboth, where he was surprised with a Hawaiian-themed party. He planned to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> in Hawaii. He didn't reach that milestone. But he truly lived the 59 years that he had.

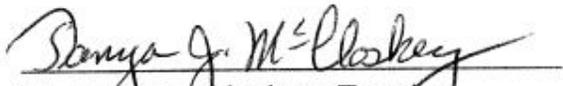
We will honor Steve as a lawyer by following his example and we will honor him as a friend by continuing to tell his stories and celebrate his traditions.

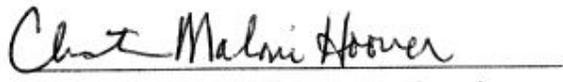
**On behalf of our colleagues at the Office of Consumer Advocate, be it resolved, that in the passing of Stephen J. Keene, we have all lost a good lawyer and friend.**

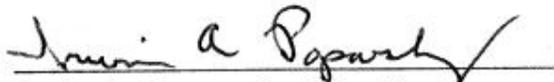
**And resolved further, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary of Dauphin County, and that copies be transmitted to his family.**

Respectfully submitted, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

  
Erin L. Gannon, Esquire

  
Tanya J. McCloskey, Esquire

  
Christine Maloni Hoover, Esquire

  
Irwin A. Popowsky, Esquire