

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
IN MEMORY OF RICHARD LEWIS BUSHMAN**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association met in a Special Meeting this 10th day of November, 2015, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Richard Lewis “Rick” Bushman, who was called home by his Almighty God on November 2, 2015 at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire and the tradition of our Bar, to share our recollections of Rick and honor him with a memorial resolution at this Special Meeting; and;

WHEREAS, before offering this Resolution, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association desire to offer a brief record of his life and career.

Rick was born January 12, 1947 in Bellevue, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Jacob H. and Alberta LaRue Lewis Bushman. Richard was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, enlisting in 1965 and honorably discharged on May 5, 1967. He married Ms. Elaine L. Miller on September 1, 1966, at St. Anne’s Episcopal Church in North East, MD.

He attended and graduated from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania in 1969, and graduated from the Dickinson School of Law in 1982.

Following his graduation from Pennsylvania State University in 1969, he started his career as a Special Inspector for the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and worked there for nine years. His wife, Elaine, related that after several cases in which Rick conducted white collar crime investigations consuming several years of his career, did not achieve a desired result due to failed court proceedings. He decided it was time to pursue a career in law. After graduating from the Dickinson School of law in 1982, Rick opened his first law office in the Valley Medical Building in Spring Run before later transitioning into the office building which he and his wife constructed. In total, he spent 31 years in the practice of law as a solo practitioner in Path Valley, practicing in the areas of bankruptcy, estates/wills, and family law. In addition to being attentive to his clients’ cases, he was equally attentive and supportive of his staff.

Rick was admitted to the Franklin County Bar and the Pennsylvania Bar on January 19, 1983 with fellow members The Honorable Richard J. Walsh, Jill McCracken, Eileen Finucane, Melinda Finucane, and Merle W. Helsel.

Rick is survived by his wife of 49 years, Elaine, three daughters, Katherine Lynn Bushman and husband Brian O’Sullivan of New Zealand, Kara Leigh Shindle and husband Dennis Jr. of Spring Run, Pennsylvania, and Janka Kukova and her son Andrew Richard of Evergreen, Colorado.

In his free time, Richard, who was also a master electrician, liked to do electrical work for other people. He loved trains, traveling, movie nights with his daughters.

Anyone who encountered Rick was sure to be told the joke de jour, often in very public places. Depending on Rick's mood, he may have sought to tell the joke loudly or tug your sleeve and whisper the joke in your ear. For Rick, the entire world was his audience. No one was immune from being told a joke. His wife Elaine related to Judge Meyers that every Sunday as she and Rick would leave St. Andrews Episcopal Church, the clergy greeting parishioners would eye Rick with heightened expectation that they would soon be given the gift of laughter and look forward to Rick's off-beat humor.

Although quick with a joke, Rick was equally serious about the vigorous representation of his clients, especially in bankruptcy court. Given his expertise in that area, he was frequently consulted by members of the Bar, and he was always quick to return a phone call or offer advice, and if the ultimate requirement was the need for the client to file bankruptcy, he happily accepted referrals.

The following are some observations submitted by fellow Bar members:

I will never forget Rick's tenacity in his quest to make me laugh out loud while sitting quietly in the courtroom. While waiting for my cases to be called during a criminal call of the list, he would sit next to me and start telling me jokes endlessly. On more than a few occasions, I had to step out into the hallway to compose myself. However, whenever I had any questions about bankruptcy issues, I knew I could call him because he was very serious about providing assistance. Of course, there was always a joke or two to end the conversation! - Nancy Meyers

Rick Bushman always had a smile on his face and a joke to tell (usually raunchy). He was a joy to work with. - Anne Shepard

I'm sure there are lots of people in the Bar who knew Rick better than me, but I truly enjoyed spending time with him whether in person or on the phone. It wasn't often enough. He was a very kindhearted, jovial, intelligent and dedicated attorney and friend. He always had a funny, off-color joke to tell and great stories about his life experiences including his time in the federal government. What left the biggest impression on me was that even though I was just another young attorney who didn't handle bankruptcy cases, Rick took the time to talk with me and lend a guiding hand when I opened my law office. I think anyone who knew Rick will miss him dearly. I feel blessed to have known him. - Annie Gomez Shockey

I met Rick when we sat on an arbitration panel together a couple of years ago. The parties never showed, having settled and neglected to notify anyone; but Rick, with an ostensibly clear morning slate, appeared intent on engaging this young lawyer in conversation. For the better part of a morning, he asked questions about my life and told jokes, which I later realized were part of his repertoire.

When I briefly entered private practice in Franklin County last year, Rick was the person I could turn to for advice, or for a laugh, and he provided much-needed assistance when I was

forced to close my practice. His humor and guidance were unexpected and very much appreciated. My wife and I are deeply sorrowed by his passing. – Matthew Karasic

Those of us who knew Rick Bushman well, knew he was a good attorney, who truly cared about his clients. We also knew he was a character!

Rick always had several new jokes. At some point, without anyone saying anything, Rick sensed that his jokes might be a little too raucous or politically incorrect for my wife and another girl. After that, he made it a point to add a couple very humorous, but totally PC, jokes to his repertoire, in order not to offend anyone.

When my wife was very ill, Rick called her with one of his new PC jokes, and brightened her day. When she passed away, he called me, and offered to help with anything I needed at my law office, without charge.

Rick applied humor, sensitivity, and concern for people in his life, and in the practice of law. He will be missed. – Fred Antoun

I, like many others who would see Rick at the courthouse, remember he always had a joke; many of the jokes were raunchy, but they were all funny. He was a serious attorney when representing his clients but he liked to make people laugh. He will be missed. – Janice Hawbaker

Rick Bushman was special. I always felt good when I saw him (and not just for his ready jokes). He was my go to attorney on bankruptcy. He aggressively represented his clients and understood the complexity of that area of law. He could, with Judge Woodside's assistance, stop serial bankruptcy filers.

Fascinated by railroads he took his family (Elaine and the girls) on a long Oriental Express trip. His amazing basement model railroad setup was a delight to see. If you had any railroad trips planned he was the one to talk with.

His background was unique (an attorney who was a master electrician and former bonded warehouse inspector). Only attorney I knew whose office window looked out on Amish buggies passing by.

Always looked forward to seeing Rick and sharing ice cream at the Path Valley picnic at Hammond's Grove or sharing a meal with him at the Path Valley Family Restaurant at Spring Run. An excellent attorney and friend, he will be missed. – Tom Finucane

I could always count on Rick to have a joke to tell. I could also always count on Rick to answer a question about Bankruptcy and take the time to be sure he addressed the actual question. – Barb Townsend

I remember Rick as a whirlwind that would blow into the Register and Recorder's Office from the hinterland of the upper valley, always start a conversation with "Have you heard the one

about . . .", and then launch into a joke, sometimes loud for the whole room to enjoy, or hushed because of the "sensitive nature" of the material.

One day I asked him why he had become a master electrician, and true to his humorous self, he said he wasn't quite sure how this lawyering was going to work out and needed something to fall back on.

Like all young attorneys who venture out as solo practitioners, Rick worked through uncertainty, not only his own but also that of established colleagues. He developed a niche in the South Central Pennsylvania area as a bankruptcy specialist. The ability to refer bankruptcy matters to his practice became a welcomed benefit to his colleagues. – David C. Wertime

*There once was an attorney from Spring Run,  
Who thought the practice of law should be fun,*

*He'd start off each meeting with a joke of ill taste,  
but by the end of the session, your debt he'd erase.*

*So laugh with 'ol Rick as he's kicked the proverbial bucket,  
Knowing he's regaling St. Pete about the man from Nantucket*

Steve Kulla

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association assembled at a Special Meeting held the 10th day of November, 2015 express our sympathy on the occasion of the loss of our fellow member and colleague, Richard Lewis "Rick" Bushman, husband, father, and attorney at law. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those members who have gone before us represent the foundation of the future generations of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn D. Meyers, J.  
Memorial Resolution Comm.

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Forest Myers  
Memorial Resolution Comm.

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Clinton Barkdoll  
President, Franklin County Bar  
Association

Additional Remembrances:

"Rick was in my class at the Dickinson School of Law and our professional paths continued to cross as we both settled into practice in Franklin County after graduation. As I'm sure many have already noted, Rick was known, even back then, for his jokes. They seemed to be Rick's way of connecting with anyone and everyone, from the Dean to the janitor at Dickinson and all those who fell in between. Occasionally I would see Rick in matters involving family law in Chambersburg but since he developed a niche practice in bankruptcy, my contacts with Rick were limited to mostly FCBA events.. I will remember Rick for his commitment to his family. We shared stories of rearing daughters and I remember his one daughter accompanying him to a FCBA function where Rick was the very proud father.

I offer my condolences to his family and remember Rick with a smile."

Thank you,

Carol Van Horn, President Judge

This memoir is from his staff, Angela Peterson - employed for 27 years, Tammy Gilliland 12 years and Sherry Rosenberry for 20 years.

He was so much more than a boss, he was a good friend. He truly cared about our wellbeing in and out of the office. He always said family comes first. He always said he wanted to be the best boss we ever had - and he was. No one will ever take the place of being an employer like he was - he was your friend first - employer second. He truly valued all of our friendships - as we did his.

He was a generous employer, paying us more than the normal wage for our positions so that we would stay with him and become loyal trusted employees. He always said he could hear his mom say "put your money where your mouth is". She was a secretary so he highly regarded our profession.

He would send us to conferences, some without him, to make sure we knew the latest changes in the law. If we drove to a conference we always had a history lesson about the trains in the area long ago and in the present. His memory was astonishing! Plus we would get \$1 for any correct answer we knew when asked a question on our road trips regarding a railroad or river. And, oh the stories and jokes told along the way!

A few times we would travel by train, even all the way to San Antonio TX and Flagstaff AZ. Train travel was his passion and he wanted us to experience it too. He would tell us that these long distance conferences were a thank you for our hard work, loyalty and dedication. He would say "if you are going work hard then you might as well have some fun".

Rick wanted to be your friend. He would say to his clients “call me Rick. If you call me Richard or Mr. Bushman I will charge you extra”. And he made many friends.

We will miss him very much and he will forever be in our hearts. God Bless You Rick.