

We pause in our activities this day to pay a richly deserved tribute to the memories of some of our esteemed former colleagues, one of whom was Robert G. Roberts.

I was associated with Bob for my first six years of law practice and being a young and impressionable attorney I naturally observed Bob closely. I found out a great deal about him and I might add was greatly impressed by him. I would like to share with you some of Bob's interesting background and my impressions and observations of him.

Bob, I learned, was a native of rural Racine County but later graduated from Washington Park High School. During high school Bob pursued athletic as well as musical interests. In 1944 he won a State wrestling championship but he also played the trumpet. Bob played trumpet professionally for the Les Boeck Dance Band. In 1945 he joined the United States Marine Corps and continued playing trumpet in the Marine Corps Band while stationed in Guam until his honorable discharge in 1947. In that same year he married Dorothy, his lovely wife, and eventually they had two sons, Craig and Jeff. Bob received a degree in Economics and a

law degree from the University of Wisconsin and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1952.

Over the years Bob associated with several local organizations, including The Optomist Club, The Muscular Dystrophy Association, advisor to the Racine Boxing Association and the Marine Corps League of Racine. Professionally Bob was a member of the Racine, Wisconsin and American Bar Associations, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers, The American Society of Law & Medicine and he became a Fellow in the Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Bob started his law practice much the way many attorneys did in the early 50's. He ran for D.A. in 1952 and 1954, he worked hard; struggled and built a successful law practice based upon his broad background. He developed trial skills in both civil and criminal law and along the way he associated his practice, gave his friendship and shared his experiences with numerous fellow attorneys.

In describing his own trial skills Bob compared himself to one fellow associate ~~Jay Schwartz~~. Jay was aggressive and very eloquent. Bob on the other hand considered himself a

counter-puncher, in a more country boy style.

Because of this personality, Bob was sociable and very well-liked. He had a tremendous sense of humor. Bob had style and he had class, and oh was he fun to work with, AND I might add he was a lousy cribbage player.

Seriously though, one thing I most admired about Bob Roberts was the way he handled the most important trial in his life. I'm not talking about the personal injury trials or the controversial murder trials that he plead

~~OVER THE YEARS~~ before many a jury. This was a trial of a different kind. A personal trial.

He fought this trial for many years. He called a lot of witnesses during the trial, many of whom were experts. He sometimes made objections, other times he chose to remain silent. ~~At times he was happy with the way the trial was going and at other times it was agony.~~ Several times he took control of the trial and he felt he could win it but other times he lost control. Bob knew he'd be trying

the case for the rest of his life. He said he could never win, that the best he could do was hang in there and counter punch. Well I'm happy to say that when Bob died he had been winning the trial for about 2 [ ] years.

The reason -- he changed his strategy. He became the agressor not the counter-puncher. Bob was still calling alot of expert witnesses, but he had better experts. These were experts from AA. Bob helped them as much as they helped him. Bob worked up the AIM program for alcoholics in jail. He was a Board Director

on the Community Alcohol & Drug Service. Bob also was Judge Harvey's contact for alcoholics that came into the criminal justice system. The Judge's words were "either Bob or one of his men would stay with the guy, talk to him, clean him up and bring him back to Court." Judge Harvey affectionately called Bob's group "The Hit Squad from AA."

I guess Bob never realized it, but he won the trial after all. He would not join in the toast but I'm sure he would acknowledge it, and so on behalf of my colleagues and myself I'd like to say

GOOD JOB OLD FRIEND, AND HERE'S TO YOU.

*Bill Bineth*