

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Portrait Presentation

of

THE HONORABLE THOMAS A. FLANNERY

Senior Judge

United States Courthouse
Washington, D.C.
Friday, June 13, 1986
3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

PRESIDING The Honorable Aubrey E. Robinson
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court
for the District of Columbia

REMARKS The Honorable Warren E. Burger
Chief Justice of the United States

PORTRAIT PRESENTATION James A. Brodsky, Esquire
Former Law Clerk to Judge Flannery
on behalf of all of Judge Flannery's
Law Clerks

UNVEILING Mrs. Flannery and Irene M. Flannery

REMARKS

The Honorable Oliver Gasch, Senior Judge
United States District Court
for the District of Columbia

The Honorable John F. Doyle, Retired Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

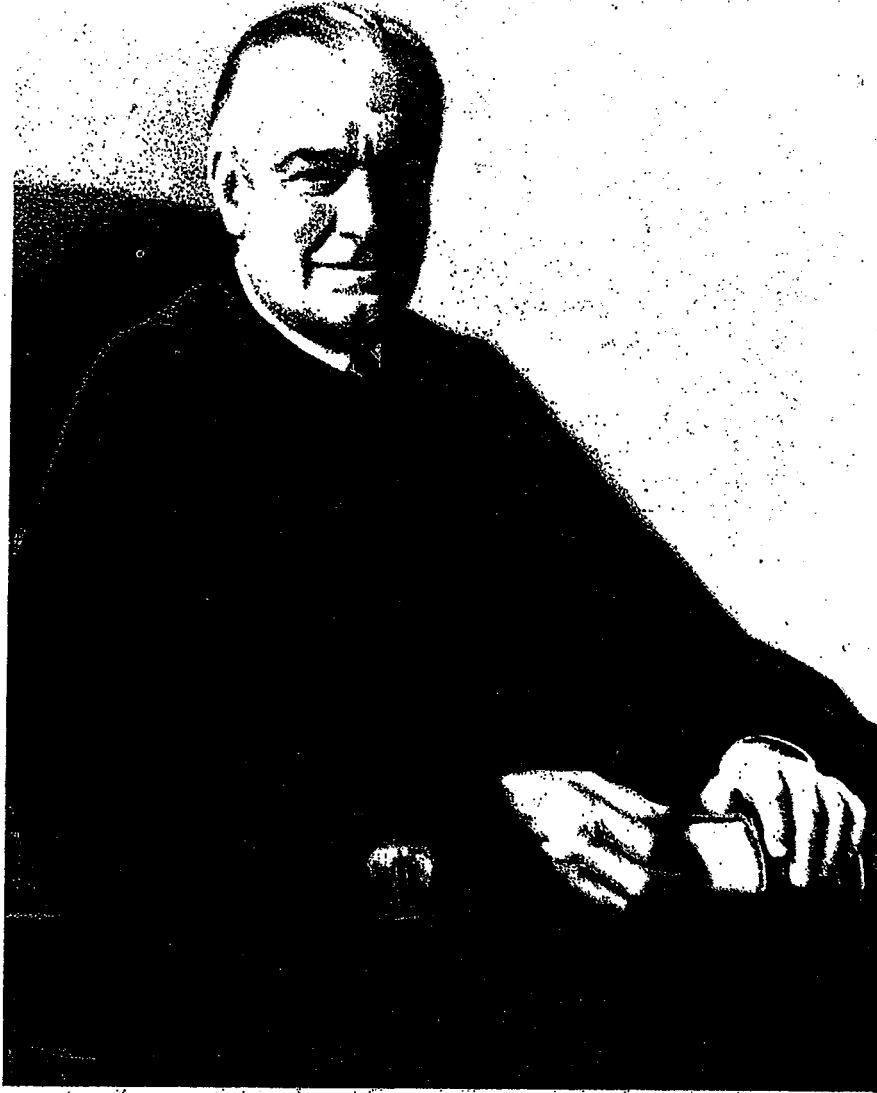
Ronald S. Safer, Esquire
Former Law Clerk to Judge Flannery

Reception

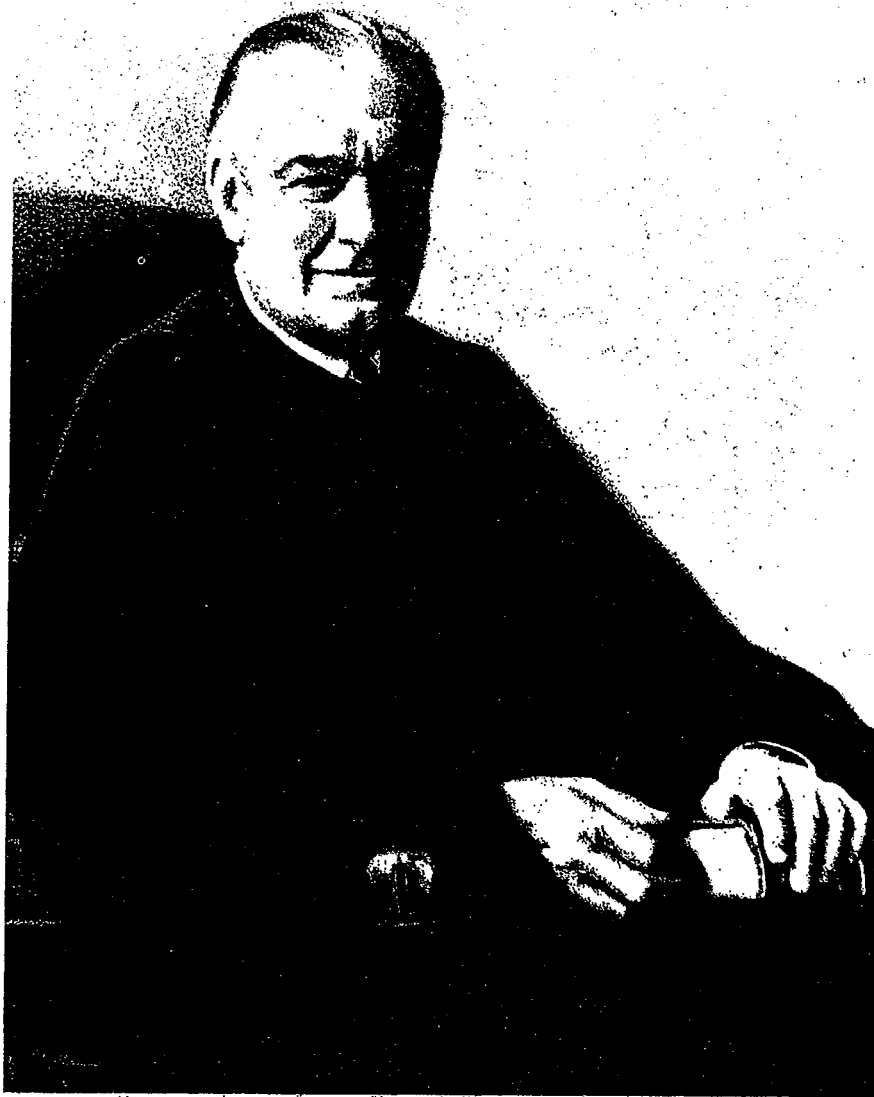
Judges' Dining Room
Sixth Floor, U.S. Courthouse

Portrait dedicated to Senior Judge Thomas A. Flannery
by his Law Clerks

1. JAMES A. BRODSKY
2. MICHAEL A. PACE
3. WILLIAM A. HELVESTINE
4. THOMAS A. MAURO
5. JOSEPH P. MARKOSKI
6. LAWRENCE COE LANPHER
7. C. ANN POWERS
8. PETER W. BENNER
9. MARK C. ELLENBERG
10. SAMUEL D. TURNER
11. WILLIAM J. BOWMAN
12. PETER J. KADZIK
13. WILLIAM J. FLANAGAN
14. RICHARD J. PARRINO
15. ROBERT M. GORDON
16. JOEL S. FELDMAN
17. DANIEL R. WHITE
18. DOUGLAS S. ABEL
19. ROBERT B. BELL
20. STEVEN L. BRAGA
21. ERIC R. GLITZENSTEIN
22. JOHN HAGEL SEYMOUR
23. PAUL R. KINGSLEY
24. FREDERICK G. HEROLD
25. RONALD S. SAFER
26. ROBERT B. STACK
27. DAVID P. DONOVAN
28. H. EDWARD WYNN
29. SEAN D. MURPHY



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Proceedings

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: This is one of the happy occasions on which we gather in this courtroom. We are here to honor our friend and colleague, Senior Judge Thomas A. Flannery. Seated in the well of the court, are Judge Flannery's wife, Rita, their daughter Irene, and Judge Flannery's sister, Mrs. Perry Morton, his nephew, Michael Flannery, and his niece, Patricia Flannery. With him are many of his law clerks and close family friends. We greatly appreciate the presence of the judges of our Circuit Court of Appeals and judges from other courts in the District of Columbia, United States Attorney Joseph Digenova, and members of his staff, and members of the staff of the United States Marshal's Office, and, of course, members of our own courtroom staff.

It is my pleasure and honor to call upon our justice, the Chief Justice of the United States, Warren Burger.

CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Judge Robinson, Judge Flannery, my colleagues of the court, and Judge Flannery's family, distinguished guests. I find it a little bit disconcerting coming up here as often as I do for presentations of unveiling of portraits of the men whom I knew as younger members of the bar when I was on the Court of Appeals. As I knew Tom Flannery, who was, of course, as we all know, one of the distinguished members of the bar, and one of the people in the bar whom, I, in my own private category, always identified as the prototype of the British barrister, the true low key advocate who persuaded always with courtesy to the court, and even to the adverse witnesses he was examining. And we know he not only had a splendid record with the private trial bar, but then later when he was appointed by the President as United States Attorney, and that was about in 1970?

JUDGE FLANNERY: 1969.

CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: I am close. I knew it was shortly after I had taken my present office. Since that time, Tom has not only carried on all of his heavy duties of District Judge in this very busy district, but many other chores that many of you don't know about, assignments from the Judicial Conference, and assignments which I am authorized by statute to make. He performs these duties always as he performed his duties for his clients, whether they were private clients against the Government, or when he had his great client, the United States Government.

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And I consider it an honor, Chief Judge Robinson, and Tom, that you permit me to take part. I will wait to congratulate you fully until we unveil the portrait.

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: Representing that group, extended family of Judge Flannery's law clerks, is James Brodsky who will make the portrait presentation.

MR. BRODSKY: May it please the Court, Chief Justice, Chief Judge Robinson. Not long ago, a group of senior newspaper editors from across the country met to reminisce about key events from their own careers which brought them to their current position of prominence as news editors and their conclusion was two factors loomed largest in their own development as professionals. First, they pointed to a role played by each of a mentor of a teacher who taught them what each should know but that they could not learn from a school, and, second, they pointed to the mastery of certain key substantive skills in their own profession. And during that conference of newspaper editors one of those senior editors described a competition he ran on his own newspaper for junior editors, competition to sharpen their skills. And that competition particularly sharpened the skill of headline writers, the ability to capture in simple phrase the essence of a story or of a person, in a phrase that conveys its meaning in shortform and succinctly. The particular story the junior editors were given in this particular competition involved a fortune teller who had been sentenced to prison and who had escaped the night before and who was then at liberty. And the junior editors were instructed to capture the essence of that story and sharpen their substantive skills. The winning entry, the senior editor reported to the group, for this short-statured fortune teller then at liberty was "Small Medium at Large."

Last night, a group of Judge Flannery's law clerks who are here in the well of the Court this afternoon, gathered to celebrate this milestone, not the first, and not the last, of many in Judge Flannery's career. As we gathered in the celebration of this occasion, we rose, most of us, to share experiences that we had had with the Judge in the course of our own special clerkship with him, and I thought as I listened to those experiences of the headline phrase that might capture the essence of Judge Flannery as we knew him from our standpoint as law clerks. Certainly that is a difficult task. How do you capture in a simple fashion the essence of a man whose decency, whose honesty and integrity, whose fairness, capacity, whose temperament, judgment and skill, whose sense of humor would be employed at key moments of tension, and I think whose understanding of people is so rare and well-respected and has been displayed repeatedly on so many occasions, over so many years in

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equally many years of public service. Despite the difficulty, however—at least for me, as I reflected over my own tenure as the Judge's law clerk, beginning in December of 1971—as I listened to the stories of my colleagues and who had the privilege to work for and with Judge Flannery, to me I think the phrase that best captures is that Judge Flannery is to us, a judge's judge. He gets the difficult issues and the hard ones; he resolves them with compassion, with dignity, with respect for all who come before him, who work with him, and for him, and with an unshakable confidence in the law and in its power and authority to do and make things right.

And it is for that reason, Chief Justice, and Chief Judge Robinson, that I am very proud to present to the Court on behalf of the 32 law clerks of Judge Flannery, whose privilege it is presently and in the past to have served with you and in behalf of the 32 or more law clerks to come who will have that privilege in the future should you continue to serve in the capacity as a Senior Judge—it is my privilege to present to the Court and ask that it accept the very fine portrait of the Honorable Thomas Flannery, a judge's judge.

Thank you very much.

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: Mrs. Flannery, will you and Irene unveil the portrait?

I accept this portrait on behalf of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. It will be a constant reminder of the years of dedicated service that Thomas A. Flannery has given and is still giving to the community and to the Nation as a member of this Court. When hung, it will rightfully join a distinguished company. We thank Judge Flannery's law clerks, past and present, for this gift to our treasured collection.

I now recognize Judge Flannery's long-time friend, mentor and colleague, Senior Judge Oliver Gasch.

JUDGE GASCH: Chief Justice, Chief Judge Robinson, my colleagues of the bench and bar, family of Judge Flannery, and our friends.

Thomas Aquinas Flannery is indeed a name to reckon by. Tom is another native Washingtonian. He was born on May 10, 1918, to John J. and Marie Sullivan Flannery. It appears that Tom is so attached to the Sullivan clan that he married a young lady by the name of Rita Sullivan, and they are still married. They have two children, Thomas Aquinas, Junior, and Irene. He graduated from the Columbus School of Law, now part of Catholic University, and was admitted to the bar in 1940. In 1942, he joined the Air Force, and served in the European Theater as a combat intelligence officer. Upon his return to civilian life, he was in private practice,

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and later went into the Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office.

There is no doubt about it, Tom, in my mind, you were the best, all-around trial attorney in the office.

He had a remarkable facility for understanding the essential elements of the case, and for proving those elements with clear and convincing evidence, but without cluttering the record with inconsequential and sometimes prejudicial details. The convictions Tom obtained were rarely reversed. After about a dozen years in the United States Attorney's Office, in 1962, he became a partner in the Washington firm of Hamilton and Hamilton where he served for about 7 years. In 1969, he became the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. And, later, in 1971, was nominated and confirmed as a Judge of this Court.

The qualities that are most impressive in Tom are his fairness, his thoroughness, and his complete objectivity. He does his work without fanfare, but with complete dedication to the attributes of justice. One is constantly impressed by his skill and dedication to the ideals of the legal profession. It is so natural with him that it seems as though he is just coasting along. He is quiet, somewhat reserved, but always considerate. It used to be said in the days when he was prosecuting important criminal cases that he just prayed them into jail. It seems almost a conflict in roles normally assumed by counsel, but juries went for it. They were impressed by this tall, handsome, young fellow who never took advantage of a defendant, but just presented the facts to the jury in such a way that they realized that the defendant was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. No doubt about it.

Mr. Stivers, who painted many of the judges of this court, as well as Judge Rover and Judge Fickling of the D.C. Court of Appeals has caught those qualities in this remarkable painting. It reflects Tom Flannery's strong sense of direction and determination, as well as his easygoing manner, and his innate sense of humor and his willingness to listen, for that quality is one of the most important for a judge. Tom is a patient man who is always in control, not only of his courtroom but of himself.

Tom is a kind of fellow who can be relied upon in difficult and unusual circumstances. I will give you two examples. There was a hotly contested and potentially explosive civil rights case in North Carolina in which some local neo-Nazis had shot and killed some alleged communists. The situation clearly required the appointment of a coolheaded and learned trial judge. The chief justice selected Tom who tried the case with skill, fairness and determination.

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Since George Hart's death, the chief justice has relied on Tom to arrange for inter-circuit assignments, a difficult chore requiring tact and persuasion.

We are indeed indebted to Tom's law clerks and friends as well as Don Stivers for this remarkable and faithful likeness.

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: Another of our honoree's close friends, a neighbor, a colleague in the office of the United States Attorney with Judge Flannery, a distinguished member of the bench of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Judge John Doyle.

JUDGE DOYLE: Mr. Chief Justice, Chief Judge Robinson, may it please the Court. It is indeed an honor to be permitted to appear before you on the occasion of the presentation of this splendid portrait of my old friend, Thomas Flannery.

In the 1950's Judge Flannery and I served together as assistant United States Attorneys during the terms of office of Leo A. Rover and Oliver Gasch. Under the leadership and inspiration of those two fine lawyers and dedicated public servants, this office was an exciting and invigorating place to work. The assistants became a closeknit band of brothers and sisters and have remained good friends even to this day. I believe, therefore, that I may presume to speak here not only for myself but also for a large number of others similarly situated. As he, himself, put it on the occasion of taking senior status last year, Judge Flannery has spent his life in the shadow of the courthouse. He is a third-generation Washingtonian. He was born and raised not far from here, in St. Aloysius parish. He was educated at Gonzaga High School which likewise is over there on North Capitol Street, a short distance away; and Columbus Law School. He met his wife, Rita, in this courthouse where she was working in the office of the clerk of the court.

His 12 years as assistant United States Attorney may readily be summarized. As Judge Gasch has stated, Judge Flannery emerged from the crucible of that system of trial every day as the outstanding trial lawyer of the office. This was no mean feat because there were in that era a number of truly outstanding prosecutors. In 1962, Judge Flannery became a senior partner in the firm of Hamilton and Hamilton. It was somehow quite suitable for Judge Flannery with his high respect for the legal traditions of this city to join a venerable law firm whose roots go well back into the last century. Here, again, he made a great contribution. He earned the admiration of his partners and the respect of the bar, this time in the field of civil law. He was made a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and became a trustee of the Legal Aid Agency.

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In 1969, the President appointed him United States Attorney. I was present in this courtroom when he took his oath of office, and I remember very well the warmth with which the then Chief Judge Curran welcomed him back to the courthouse. The entire bench also made no attempt to conceal their great delight at his appointment. It was an expression of confidence that I very seldom have seen the court give to a member of the bar.

I have spoken to a number of persons who were Judge Flannery's division and section chiefs during this period. For example, I have spoken to Judge Hannon, who was the chief of the civil division; Judge Smith who was the chief of the criminal division; Judge Nunzio was the chief of the grand jury section; and assistant United States Attorney Vincent Caputy, who was his advisor and training officer. Uniformly, do these men admire his detailed knowledge of the legal justice system; the courage with which he made a series of very hard but necessary decisions; his insistence upon excellence in the performance of duty; and the way that he personally led his office in what really became a new age. All commented on his coolness in times of excitement and crisis.

Judge Flannery was appointed to this court on December 6, 1971. One certainly needs no more than the remarks of the Chief Justice and those of Judge Gasch to appreciate his superb service on this bench.

All of this, of course, constitutes a remarkable record, but it leaves so much unsaid. For example, when I talked to his close colleagues in the United States Attorney's Office, whom I have mentioned, and with Mr. Stephen Trimble, his partner in his old law firm, it became obvious to me that what impressed them most about the judge was not so much his technical skill and proficiency but his qualities of character. With this I agree for when you deal with Judge Flannery, the most important factor, not alone that he has been a trial lawyer and judge of truly great ability, but even more that he has been a gentle, fair, modest and honorable man.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: I recognize Ronald S. Safer, another of the Judge Flannery's former law clerks, and one who worked with him for months at the judge's special assignment in North Carolina.

MR. SAFER: May it please the Court, it is a distinct honor and privilege to speak to you today about Judge Flannery. Anyone who knows Judge Flannery knows that he is an extremely modest person, and would rather be almost anywhere—particularly on a day like today on the golf course—than sitting around listening to all these people say these nice things about him. Well, Judge, we

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are almost through but bear with me a few minutes while I tell some stories about North Carolina.

I could describe dozens of instances that exemplify what a fine judge and person Judge Flannery is, as could any one of Judge Flannery's law clerks or, indeed, any of you who have been fortunate enough to have your life touched by Judge Flannery. As it happened, my co-clerk, Fred Herold, and I were fortunate enough to be working for Judge Flannery when he was appointed by Chief Justice Burger to preside over what has become known as the Greensboro Massacre case. The incidents that I will describe today may be unique to Fred's and my tenure as Judge Flannery's law clerks, but I know as I describe them and the things they say about Judge Flannery, I am giving voice to feelings that are held by all of my colleagues.

For those of you who are not familiar with the circumstances surrounding that case that Judge Gasch alluded to, I'll give you a thumbnail sketch. I apologize if my remarks run a few minutes longer, but it is a rare occasion when you get to speak about a person that we care about as deeply as we care about Judge Flannery and I beg your indulgence.

The Communist Workers Party organized a "death to the Klan" rally and march to take place in Greensboro, North Carolina, in early November, 1979. In a newspaper advertisement, the Communist Workers Party invited the Ku Klux Klan to attend the rally. The wording of the advertisement as well as other communist literature made it clear that the Klan would not be made to feel welcome if they did attend. Nine carloads of American Nazi Party members and Ku Klux Klansmen decided to accept the invitation. They brought with them an impressive arsenal. When they got to the street where the demonstrators were gathering, a stick fight ensued and eventually the Klansmen and Nazis retreated to their cars and began firing their weapons at the demonstrators. The demonstrators had a few handguns and although there was extensive and sophisticated expert testimony, it is not clear who fired the first shot. What is clear is that after the shooting was over five demonstrators lay dead and 7 wounded.

One of the unique features of this case was that the entire incident was captured on video tape. Television cameras from the CBS, ABC and NBC affiliates were present to film the rally and the march. When the Klan and Nazis arrived, the cameras kept rolling, and the entire sickening, violent affair was there for everyone to see in living color.

A state court trial for murder was held and resulted in acquittals for all of the six Klansmen and Nazis tried. In fact, the only

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convictions to come out of this incident were the five Nazis and Klansmen convicted of plotting to blow up the court house in the event of a guilty verdict at the State trial. Fortunately, the person who the Klansmen and Nazis thought would be the triggerman was an undercover FBI agent.

I cannot convey the level of tension that Judge Flannery faced when he arrived in the Greensboro area to conduct the first of 3 pretrial conferences. The community was irate that the nation's attention would once again be focused upon Greensboro for such an infamous reason. The nine defense attorneys and 3 prosecutors were almost literally at each other's throats. The Judge was kept under 24-hour guard by the United States Marshals throughout the trial. The over one hundred thousand pieces of physical evidence, including shotgun pellets and the like, the inflammatory subject matter of the case, and the lack of any cooperation between the attorneys, threatened to make this an uncontrollable case. Indeed, during the almost 6-month long state court case, evidence concerning Marxist-Leninism, Nazism, and the history of the Klan was allowed to be brought before the jury. It was clear that Judge Flannery would be put to the test.

I remember thinking to myself that the Judge was strangely quiet throughout the pretrial conference that I attended. It was clear that the defense attorneys were attempting to force a postponement of the trial date by filing over one hundred pretrial motions. I expected the Judge to raise his voice or at least voice his annoyance with the attorneys to force them into a more cooperative mode. But I only thought that because I didn't know Judge Flannery too well yet. That was not and is not his way. He treated the attorneys with professional courtesy and never lectured, scolded or preached. When we returned to Washington, the Judge immersed himself in those pretrial motions. At the second pretrial conference he decided the over one hundred motions in a marathon session of court. The attorneys from both sides began to realize who they were dealing with. Without ever raising his voice, without ever doing anything but deciding motions, after tirelessly listening to any argument of counsel, it was clear to both sides who could outlast—and in my opinion outthink—whom in the courtroom. The Judge had convinced the attorneys that there would be no delay for delay's sake and that cooperation was the only way to try this case.

In a thoughtfully written opinion—I can say that because I didn't have any role in writing it—in response to a motion in limine concerning evidence about communism and all the other "isms" involved in this case, Judge Flannery struck a balance between allowing the parties on the one hand to put on their defense, and on

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the other hand, making it very clear that there would not be a trial of Marx or Lenin or Hitler or anybody but the nine defendants standing trial. The Judge achieved this balance by applying a formula that he applies to every case: diligence; incisive legal analysis; and most importantly, an unerring sense of right and wrong. While I was clerking for the Judge, I was awe-struck by these qualities; and with every month that I am away from the Judge, I increasingly appreciate how truly rare this combination of attributes is.

There's no need to rehash the details of the grueling 3-month long trial. Suffice to say, that as Judge Gasch mentioned, because of Judge Flannery's calm yet firm and consummately professional attitude, the trial was conducted in an orderly fashion.

If there was rancor between the parties and between counsel for the parties—and I assure you there was—all concerned knew that they dare not display that rancor in the courtroom. Unlike the demonstrations that interrupted the State trial consistently, Judge Flannery's courtroom was a model of decorum.

Perhaps the greatest tribute that was paid to Judge Flannery is that in the middle of all this hostility, in the middle of all these groups that hated, not one criticism was leveled against the Judge. The communists and the Nazis who had the full ear of the press—the progress of the case was reported daily in two local newspapers and on occasion in the Washington Post and New York Times—never criticized Judge Flannery's rulings. The press itself, although critical of Judge Flannery's exclusion of them during the jury selection process, an action upheld by the Fourth Circuit on an expedited appeal, did not find fault with anything that Judge Flannery did during the trial. Throughout the trial, Judge Flannery commanded rather than demanded the respect of counsel.

After the verdict of acquittal on all counts for all defendants was announced, when the prosecution team must have been absolutely devastated, the chief prosecutor felt moved to come to the Judge's chamber and tell him that on behalf of the United States Justice Department he believed that the prosecution had received a fair trial: the consummate compliment he could have paid to the Judge especially under those circumstances.

This case involved a bevy of fundamental legal principles such as freedom of speech and association, self defense and defense of others, in an incredibly complex and controversial setting. Justice Frankfurter wrote that it is a fair summary of history to say that the safeguards of liberty have frequently been forged in controversies involving not very nice people. This case exemplified that principle. Surrounded on all sides by groups that teach hate and

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violence, Judge Flannery saw to it that the interests of liberty and justice were safeguarded in the opinions he wrote, the rulings he made and the jury instructions he gave.

Because of the circumstances of hearing a case so far from home, my co-clerk and I were fortunate enough not only to have a birdseye view of Judge Flannery, the Judge, but also to get acquainted with Judge Flannery, the person.

I would go into detail telling you about my respect and admiration for the Judge at some length, but Judge Flannery did give me one guiding principle for this speech through his more than able assistant, Eileen Mayhew, an amazing person in her own right. He sent me a message with characteristic directness and brevity: "Don't make this a eulogy." Thus, I will favor you with only a few observations.

While we were in North Carolina, Judge Flannery accorded the same high degree of respect to the marshals that guarded him, the court and hotel personnel who worked for him, as he did the judges in North Carolina, and, indeed, everyone with whom he comes into contact. He has that wonderful quality of making every individual feel that he or she is important because he is willing to spend his time and energy listening to them with interest. I think I figured out how Judge Flannery does that. He believes it. He does not feign interest. He is interested. He does not have to pretend that he regards all people as important. He truly believes that everyone is important. Judge Flannery not only believes that all men are created equal, he lives that principle. Judge Flannery not only agrees with the golden rule; he personifies it.

This should come as no surprise to anyone who has sat in Judge Flannery's courtroom. He treats the highest-paid corporate lawyers the same as he treats the pro se complainant whom he has never seen before: with patience, respect, dignity and professional courtesy. In fact, I can never remember Judge Flannery cutting off any litigant. Judge Flannery recognizes that sometimes for some people, the right to voice an opinion and to have a judge listen to what that person perceives as a grievance may be more important than even having that grievance redressed. The heavy case load and the years of listening have not done anything to reduce the patience and attention that Judge Flannery gives to plaintiffs, defendants, and lawyers alike.

Lawyers are known as wordsmiths; they are particularly aware of the usefulness and limitations of words, particularly to describe heartfelt emotions, but it is striking how the words written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 describing the attributes that judges of this then new nation ideally should have also perfectly describe

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Judge Flannery. He wrote as follows: "The judges, therefore, should always be persons of learning and experience in the law, of exemplary morals, great patience, calmness, coolness, and attention." But this is no eulogy. Today we simply mark one milestone in the midst of many milestones already passed, and many more yet to come in the career of a truly great man.

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: Now, we will hear from our honoree, Senior Judge Thomas A. Flannery.

JUDGE FLANNERY: Mr. Chief Justice, I appreciate your coming here. I know how busy you are, more than most people, and we are all honored by your presence.

Chief Judge Aubrey Robinson, and my colleagues on the District Court, Chief Judge Spottswood Robinson, and your colleagues, and my many friends from the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and judges of the Superior Court, who are here, my law clerks, and my friends.

First of all, I want to thank Judge Gasch, my friend of many years, for his very kind remarks, and also Judge Doyle. I have been fortunate enough to have these two wonderful gentlemen as my friends for many years. I appreciate very much your remarks.

Ron—Ron Safer, we went through a very difficult experience together, and I want to thank you for your very generous remarks.

I want to thank my law clerks who are here today, all my law clerks, for this fine portrait that they have presented to the court today.

I am especially appreciative to Jim Brodsky, chairman of the arrangements committee, and his hard-working committee members, for making this presentation possible.

As one of the speakers said, I was at dinner last night with my law clerks and had a very enjoyable time. They have come from faraway places to be here. Two of them aren't here this afternoon, but they were at the dinner last night. One had come from Chicago; he was in the middle of a trial. But he hopped a plane and came here just to be present at the dinner. Another one was in trial at Hartford, Connecticut, and he came down here to be present at the dinner.

I said this at dinner last night and for the record I'd like to repeat it. I have been fortunate during my judicial career to have been blessed with the greatest law clerks in the world. I haven't had one person I'd call a bad law clerk. They have all been outstanding, loyal, dedicated, hardworking, able, young lawyers. They are a credit to their parents and their upbringing and to the law schools that trained them.

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I think I should also thank the artist at this point, Mr. Stivers. He outdid himself. I think that portrait actually looks much better than I do in real life, but I don't object to that. Mr. Stivers also painted several other of the judges whose portraits hang on that wall. He painted Judge Gasch and Judge Bryant. He is an excellent artist. I thank him for his generosity in depicting me.

Over 30 years ago, I occupied a small office on the third floor of this building in the office of the United States Attorney. I never dreamed that the day would arrive when I'd be seated in this magnificent ceremonial courtroom, and my portrait would be presented where it would hang with all the distinguished judges who have served this court for so many years.

One doesn't attain any position or success unless he is helped along the way and I have been helped along the way by a lot of people. Some of them are seated right in this courtroom. Some of them are no longer with us, but their portraits are on that wall. One of them is seated here today, Judge Edward M. Curran. Judge Curran really gave me my first break when he had me appointed assistant United States Attorney. It all went from there. That was the beginning. There have been others. People like Judge Holtzoff, who always gave me a lot of good advice when I was an assistant United States Attorney. He was really a mentor, a teacher. And there was Judge Tamm and Judge Keech who helped me at critical points in my career. He probably doesn't want me to say it but I am going to say it: my good friend, the Chief Justice, when he was a member of the circuit court, advised me and helped me at very critical points in my career. I am deeply grateful to all those people, and many others who helped me along the way.

But there's one person seated in this courtroom today, and without her help, love and devotion, I wouldn't be here today. That is my wife, Rita. She's my inspiration. She has been my loyal companion, has been my advisor, and she more than anyone is the reason I am seated here today.

I think I have said enough. If I keep on going, I'll probably start crying. I don't want to do that. I'll end by saying thanks again to my law clerks, thanks to all of you who honor me by your presence today, and God bless all of you. (applause)

CHIEF JUDGE ROBINSON: After the court has adjourned and we have had our opportunity to see the portrait closely, each of you is welcome to come into the well of the court and examine before it is hung up. We are not hanging the Judge, we are hanging his portrait. Each of you is cordially invited to attend the reception that will be held in the judges dining room which is on this floor. You are all very cordially invited to participate in that affair.

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Will the Deputy Marshal adjourn the court, please?

DEPUTY MARSHAL BURCH: All rise. This Honorable Court will now stand adjourned.