

**Presentation of Portrait**

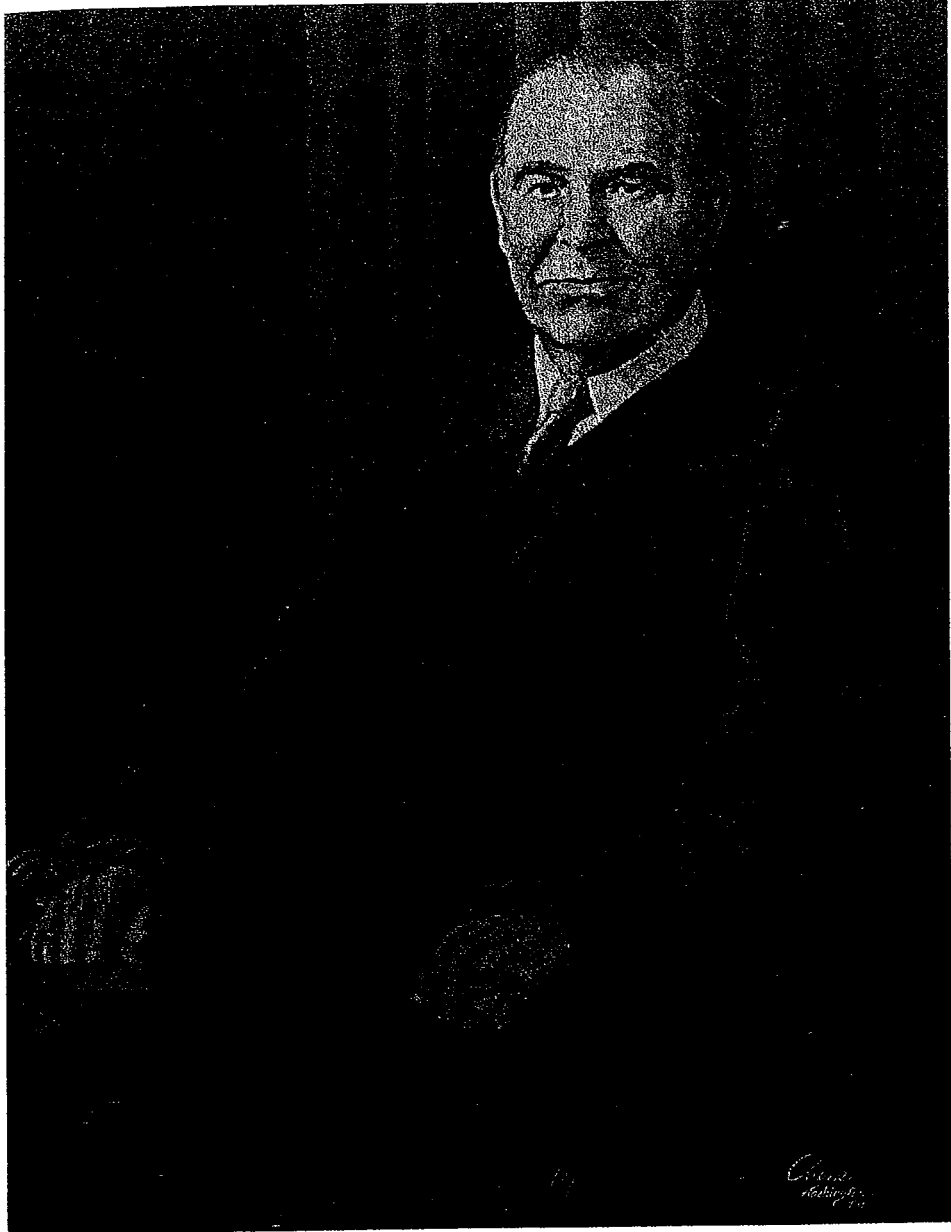
of

**THE HONORABLE LEONARD P. WALSH**

**Ceremonial Courtroom  
United States District Court for the  
District of Columbia**

**Thursday, July 24, 1975**

At 4:00 p. m., Thursday, July 24, 1975, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, was called into special session, Acting Chief Judge Howard F. Corcoran presiding.



HONORABLE LEONARD P. WALSH

# Proceedings

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JUDGE CORCORAN: Honored guests, trustees of the Judge Walsh Portrait Fund, members of the family of Judge Walsh, ladies and gentlemen:

This Court has been called into special session today for the purpose of receiving from the former law clerks and from others of his friends a portrait of Judge Leonard P. Walsh.

It is a gratifying experience for his fellow judges on this Court to be able to participate in this ceremony. It must be extremely gratifying as well for his family and his friends to know he is being honored today in this special proceeding.

On behalf of the Court, I particularly want to welcome the Judge's wife, Mrs. Leonard Walsh; his secretary, Miss Katharine Smith; his children Bill Walsh and Toby Kazinski, who are present here today.

I also see in the audience members of the United States Court of Appeals, members of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and of the Superior Court. On behalf of this United States District Court, I extend to you a warm welcome to participate in this special proceeding.

While we were in the robing room a few moments ago, I was handed this envelope and I want you to participate in enjoying it with me. It is a colored photograph of our President and it is autographed as follows:

"To Judge Leonard P. Walsh, with best wishes and congratulations for 21 years of dedicated service on the bench,"  
signed Gerald R. Ford.

JUDGE WALSH: Thank you.

JUDGE CORCORAN: We had hoped to be honored by the presence of the Chief Justice of the United States, who wanted to pay his personal respects to Judge Walsh, but Chief Justice Burger has been called out of town and is unable to attend.

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He did, however, send a note to our Chief Judge, William Jones, and I would like to make it a part of this record. This is written on the letterhead of the Supreme Court of the United States, from the Office of the Chief Justice, addressed to the Honorable William B. Jones, Chief Judge, United States District Court, and it reads as follows:

"Dear Bill:

"I deeply regret that a change in date of a meeting in New York makes it impossible to be present when Len Walsh's portrait is presented to your court.

"I have known and worked with Len nearly 25 years and hold him in the highest regard. He is one of those rare judges richly endowed with uncommonly good common sense and a talent for letting the lawyers try their cases yet never losing control of what is going on. I well recall how superbly he performed 20 years ago as Chief Judge of the predecessor court to the present Superior Court. In his short tenure there he brought the court's work up to date and left it in splendid condition when he came to the District Court.

"Please give him my warm personal greetings and my regrets that the New York meeting will keep me away on Thursday.

"Sincerely,"

We are happy to have as our guest today, and sitting with us on the bench, Judge George MacKinnon of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Judge MacKinnon is here as one of Judge Walsh's oldest and closest friends. Their friendship extends back some 50 years to the days when they were teammates on the famous University of Minnesota football teams of 1925, '26 and '27.

No man knows Judge Walsh better than Judge MacKinnon. No man is better qualified to speak about Judge Walsh.

The Court recognizes Judge MacKinnon.

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JUDGE MacKINNON: May it please the Court. Judge Corcoran, judicial colleagues of the federal bench, my old friend Len and Mrs. Walsh, members of the family, Miss Smith, Trustees of the Foundation, ladies and gentlemen:

My participation in this pleasurable occasion is with deep feeling and personal pride from having known Leonard Patrick Walsh personally and intimately for 51 years, since we first met as the first two candidates for the freshman football team to step on the practice field at the University of Minnesota in 1924.

Through the years, that chance meeting ripened into a continuous friendship which has persisted with increasing dual attachment to this day.

I do not know what it is, but there is something about those relationships which begin in early manhood and are continued through life that weld men together like hoops of steel and sometimes closer than brothers.

As one sees his friend emerge into manhood and into the public community, you see him confronted with the many and varied trials and tribulations of this life, his family, his profession, and the always present personal problems.

You see him struggle with those problems one by one. They become your problems. You see him surmount them and move on to other problems and higher challenges.

Through this period, day by day and year by year, your mutual attachment grows stronger. You acquire a sense of common identity.

Aristotle said, "A friend is a single soul in two bodies."

This can be particularly true when your friend, as with my friend Len, has an all-encompassing capacity for inciting lasting, warm personal friendships.

This is something I am sure he was born with. It is the warp and woof of his very being. In a sense, he does not make friends, he recognizes them. And this inherent trait is all-expansive.

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Myriads of people recognize it, are attracted by it and then succumb to its permanent effects.

This exuding invitation to friendship has been without limits, as one recognizes in traveling around in Len's past byways and having so many people from all walks of life so frequently inquire as to his well-being.

The motivation behind this portrait presentation today initiated by his former law clerks and the large number of people assembled here today are mute testimony of how some of those whose life has touched his view his continuing friendship.

Also, from my own standpoint and a relatively small group of surviving men who played football together at the University of Minnesota longer ago than I would like to state, this friendship is greatly enhanced by the almost unbelievably strong common bond that we played football together for the famous Dr. Clarence Spears—a great person and a great coach of players and men.

Judge Walsh once said of him, "He taught me more than football." Doc never sacrificed a boy's education for a better chance at football victory. Playing football for him was something special.

When you made the grade and played on a team for him, you acquired a mutual respect for your teammates' abilities and a pride of achievement that was contagious and ever-lasting. You felt you were teamed with men whose accomplishments had satisfied the highest standards as players and men.

I know there have been a few other coaches with similar qualities, but not many. The situation most similar to the one I describe I find among those men who played for Knute Rockne.

Shortly before he died, Dr. Spears wrote to a former captain, who had played for him, Bob Kay, a leading lawyer in West Virginia, and I quote him:

"My greatest pride is in the accomplishments of players I coached in life after football. Not that I developed char-

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acter, but my judgment and selection of players to invest time and work on paid dividends as football players and as men of accomplishment after graduation."

When you played football for a man with such standards in the days before the game lost its traditional character by commercialized rule changes designed to satisfy the spectators by substituting platooned bit players for iron men, when a victory over Michigan or a tie with Notre Dame was more cherished than a first round draft choice, you developed a different set of values that led to eternal friendships based on mutual respect instead of squabbles over differing pro salaries.

In memory of those happy days of yore and just to see another of his favorites and shake his hand, Doc would like to be here today. He would feel proud and rightly so of Len's accomplishments.

I feel I am speaking for Doc and the men who played for him with Len at Minnesota.

To illustrate the strong bond of respectful affection that is engendered under such circumstances, one of our mutual teammates of long ago, who lives in a distant city, when I saw him just recently, remarked, "If a man can love another man on this earth, I love that Len."

Judge Walsh also applied his warm personal qualities to judicial administration. That was one of the reasons he was recognized nationally as an outstanding Chief Judge of the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia.

This led to his appointment to the United States District Court where he demonstrated that rare judicial talent of being able in a large number of cases to satisfy both sides of a lawsuit.

But I do not propose to present a judicial biography of Judge Walsh's 21-year tenure on the bench. That is well known to all here and others may speak to it.

I speak to his human qualities and to his unlimited capacity for the close companionship of people. He likes people and



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people like him. He has also been most fortunate in having Dottie and Bronia to help him during different periods in his life, and he has had an incomparable assistant in the person of Katharine Smith.

They all made major contributions to Len's success.

So it is that I join with the many friends of Judge Walsh in thanking his former law clerks for the pleasure of this portrait which will adorn one of the rooms of this court and serve as a fitting tribute to his service as a judge and a constant reminder of an enduring friend, whose retirement has made us all realize how greatly we value his companionship and how acutely we miss the personal warmth of those daily meetings, now too infrequent.

Thank you.

JUDGE CORCORAN: Thank you, Judge MacKinnon.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated previously, the portrait which we are receiving today has been contributed by Judge Walsh's former law clerks and others of Judge Walsh's many friends.

The Trustees of the Portrait Fund are J. Gordon Forester, Jr. and James Lynn, both former law clerks to Judge Walsh.

The Court will now recognize Mr. Forester.

MR. FORESTER: Your Honor, may it please the Court.

I am here today representing the former law clerks of Judge Walsh and his friends who have made this portrait possible.

To these, first of all, we are grateful for their contributions. To the other friends of Judge Walsh, and many are here, we are also grateful, even though we did not seek their contributions. It was not necessary, in that the generosity of those contacted was overwhelming.

We also owe a special debt to a very close and dear friend of Judge Walsh who was extremely generous and enthusiastic in support of this gift. That was Thomas W. McGreggor, who recently passed away. He is with us today in spirit.

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A brief word must be said about the former law clerks for they were the genesis of this portrait.

They are 14 in all. We came to him fresh out of law school and each of us took more from him than we gave. He taught us humility, no easy task, particularly to a young lawyer.

He taught us about common sense in the law. He taught us about the practical application of the law: the law as an every-day, viable institution.

We learned that law is a human experience, because of his humanity, his great heart.

So today we come with a small token in tribute to say, "Thank you," because of our debt; to say, "Thank you," because we love him.

It is, therefore, with pride and humility that I present this portrait of Judge Leonard P. Walsh on behalf of his former law clerks, his friends, and the people of the District of Columbia whom he served so well as Chief Judge of the Municipal Court and as a judge of this Court.

This portrait is donated to the United States and to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Thank you.

JUDGE CORCORAN: Thank you, Mr. Forester.

Mr. Lynn, would you step forward and unveil the portrait?

MR. LYNN: Yes, Your Honor.

(Whereupon, the portrait was unveiled by Mr. Lynn.)

JUDGE CORCORAN: Mr. Forester, Mr. Lynn, let me extend to you and to all others who contributed to this splendid gift the sincere thanks and appreciation of the Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Naturally, we are happy when one of our brothers is honored and we are particularly happy that this honor should come to Leonard P. Walsh, who has been associated with us on this

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Court for a period of some 15 years, after having served, as well, for several years as Chief Judge of the former Municipal Court for the District of Columbia.

With the concurrence of all my brother Judges of this Court, it is the order of this Court that this portrait of Judge Leonard P. Walsh be accepted with sincere thanks by the Court, and it is further

ORDERED, that the portrait of Judge Walsh remain and be displayed in this Court in perpetuity as a token of respect and admiration for this outstanding Judge; and it is further

ORDERED, that a transcript of these proceedings be prepared and presented to Judge Walsh together with the letter from the Chief Justice of the United States.

Ladies and gentlemen, following the adjournment of this Court, Judge Walsh will return to the well of the Court to receive his friends.

This concludes this special session of this Court.

Will the Marshal please adjourn the Court?

(Whereupon, at 4:23 p. m., the special session of the Court was adjourned.)

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