

In the Supreme Court
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Induction

of

HONORABLE RONALD D. CASTILLE

as

Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

HONORABLE ROBERT N.C. NIX, JR.
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Presiding

3:30 P.M.
Monday, January 3, 1994
Courtroom 456, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

INDUCTION PROGRAM

OPENING OF COURT

Honorable Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

INVOCATION

Reverend James Hall
Pastor, Triumph Baptist Church
President, Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention

REMARKS

Paul S. Diamond, Esq.
Thomas A. Decker, Esq.
James T. McDermott, Jr., Esq.

READING OF COMMISSION

Anne B. Anstine

ROBING

Judy Castille and Marie Castille

OATH OF OFFICE

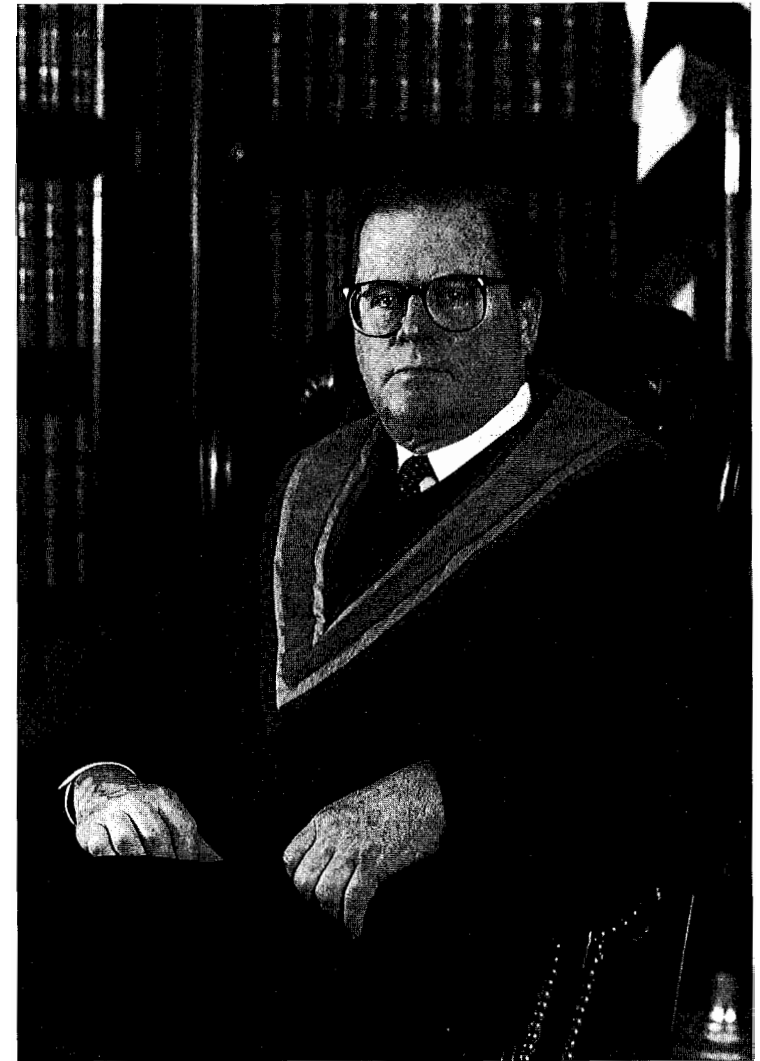
Mr. Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.

REMARKS

Mr. Justice Ronald D. Castille

CLOSING

Mr. Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.



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Proceedings

THE COURT CRIER: All rise. The Honorable Robert N.C. Nix, Jr., Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Oyez, oyez, oyez. All manner of persons who stand bound by recognizance or who otherwise have business before this court may now appear and they shall be heard. God save the Commonwealth and this honorable court.

If you will remain standing, the invocation will be delivered by Rev. James Hall.

REV. HALL: Shall we pray.

Oh, God, our Father, we come today seeking Your blessings and benediction on this Your servant, Ronald D. Castille, as he embarks upon the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania. We pray that You will keep him focused and help him to meet the challenges with grace and with the boundless love that only You can afford, and may Your spirit grant him good faith. Encourage him to remember that blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. We pray also for his family. May they provide the emotional support that he will need to execute this office.

We pray for his staff. Give them the insight and the stamina they will need for their appointed duties. We pray for those of us who will follow his leadership. Give us the sensibility and the sensitivity to respect the decisions made on our behalf, and even in times of tensions and disagreements, may we have enough love to bridge the gulf of difficulties that we will face.

We pray, oh, God, that as citizens of this great State of Pennsylvania, that we will be truly one, and that we will live to see the day when the prophetic utterance of the prophet Amos will come to full fruition, and that is, "Justice shall run down as water, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

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Grant Your servant, Ronald D. Castille, Your grace and Your peace in these difficult times. It is in the name of God our Father we pray. Amen.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Thank you, Reverend.

THE COURT CRIER: Please be seated.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: I can say to Justice-to-be Castille that your cup is overflowing. I refer, of course, to the number of those in attendance, which is, of course, a tribute to you. We will have a series of remarks from individuals who have known Justice-elect Castille.

The first person we will hear from is Paul S. Diamond, Esquire. The court notes that I remember when Paul S. Diamond, Esquire, was very thin, a very trim gentleman.

MR. DIAMOND: Your Honor's memory is better than mine. Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the court, we are assembled today to honor the court and its newest member, Ron Castille. On occasions like these, I believe we would do well to consider this court's high purpose.

In the 1920's, two of our nation's greatest appellate jurists, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Learned Hand, ended one of their frequent discussions with Judge Hand stating, "Goodbye, Mr. Justice. Now go and do justice." Justice Holmes turned and asked, "What's that you said?" Judge Hand again replied, "Go and do justice." Justice Holmes smiled, "You know better than to say a thing like that. All we do is apply the rules of the game."

With this phrase, I believe Justice Holmes described what we expect from every appellate jurist, to have the intelligence to interpret and understand our laws, to have the courage and wisdom to apply them fairly, and perhaps most importantly, to have the qualities of moral leadership that will persuade people to accept and obey our courts, for our judges command no armies. They command obedience only by their moral example.

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The court's newest member, Ronald Castille, is uniquely well qualified to carry out these high tasks. Those of us who know Ron well know of his intellectual attainments. Ron was a National Merit Scholar and received two additional academic scholarships when he attended Auburn University. He was selected to be a member of the National Freshman Honor Society and the National Collegiate Scholarship Fraternity. He was elected to the student senate and edited Auburn's newspaper while he earned a major degree in economics and a minor in mathematics.

Ron attended the University of Virginia Law School, again on a full scholarship, where he served as vice president of the student body and belonged to the university-wide Raven Society, whose members were chosen on the basis of their scholarship and leadership.

Ron joined the Philadelphia district attorney's office in 1971, an extremely lustrous point in its history, when its members included Philadelphia's present mayor and district attorney and, of course, Senator Specter himself.

Ron served 14 years as assistant and deputy district attorney in Philadelphia, before he was elected district attorney of Philadelphia. As district attorney, Ron personally drafted legislation that brought about wholesale reform of the way our criminal justice system treats juvenile offenders.

I served with Ron during his years as an assistant and deputy district attorney. As a trial lawyer, Ron was without peer. No attorney in the office could marshal the facts and the law as effectively as Ron. He also displayed a courage that few realize is needed to prosecute serious criminal matters, and the sense of fairness to do so according to the rules set down by this court.

Ron's qualities of moral leadership are extraordinary. He has served his country and his community. He has served us all with heroism and with distinction. He has devoted his entire professional life to public service and the fair, even-handed enforcement of the law.

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Your Honor, service on this court is the pinnacle of professional achievement for a lawyer in this commonwealth. I can think of no lawyer, I can think of no person more deserving of that honor than Ron Castille. I know that with his courage, moral leadership, and great intelligence, he will, in the words of Learned Hand, "Go and do justice." Congratulations, Ron. (applause)

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: We will next hear from Thomas A. Decker, Esquire.

MR. DECKER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the court, I'm honored to have been invited to speak before the court and to Ron's friends and family today at this induction ceremony. Ron and I have been friends since our days together as roommates at the University of Virginia Law School—that is quite a number of years ago—and it's safe to say that back then I had a few more hairs and Ron clearly had a few less inches in his waistline.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: I note that I share that malady. (laughter)

MR. DECKER: Your Honor, I'm afraid we all do past the age of 40.

Ron and his wife Judy are godparents to my oldest child Samantha.

In preparing for my remarks today, I remembered the time when I first met Ron. It was at our first day at law school and, as I recall, a beautiful September day. As is the case with most law students, we were a bit unsure of the challenges and adventures which were on the horizon.

While standing outside the school, a number of us watched as a somewhat old but, again, well-preserved Lincoln Continental arrived towing a somewhat newer M.G. Out came a well-dressed individual in a suit, tie, and hat on crutches, seemingly with all the confidence in the world. We wondered who this guy could be. Clearly, he couldn't be a first-year law

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student, and yet, he seemed a little young to be the Dean. (laughter)

This sign of confidence, some might say flamboyance, belie the fact that Ron only weeks before had finished his long rehabilitation as a patient in the Philadelphia naval hospital, following his wounds in Vietnam.

I have related this story because I want to emphasize what most of his friends already know, and that is that Ron has a reserved personality, and coupled with his outgoing demeanor, this has often resulted in a misimpression as to the depth of his feelings, sensitivity, and beliefs. I have heard it said that those who wear their feelings on their sleeves have feelings which often go no deeper than their sleeves. Ron is quite the opposite.

I would also point to an episode in the recent past which I believe evidences Ron's manner in communicating his beliefs. Ron and Judy were driving their five-year-old but still red Corvette to the movies. Ron parked in the space designated for the disabled near the theater. A group of people passing by ridiculed and verbally abused Ron for parking in this reserved space, apparently unaware of Ron's disability.

Rather than responding to this abuse, Ron simply parked the car and joined them in the theater. When they saw him, he quietly commented that handicapped were allowed to drive sports cars, too, suggesting that they learn all of the facts before they jump to a conclusion.

Perhaps some would say that because Ron didn't rant and rave, he didn't care about this incident, but they would have a very superficial view about Ron's true feelings. He cares about things very deeply but acts with restraint and dignity.

I would cite Ron's candidacy for mayor in 1991 as another example. Some concluded that he didn't care about that office because he didn't thump on tables or yell back at his opponents. Despite what some of us may have preferred at the time, that is simply not Ron's style.

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On the contrary, Ron cares a great deal about this city. He resigned from an office that he loved dearly to run for mayor because he felt that his election as mayor would make a difference to a city that was both fiscally and emotionally bankrupt.

He believed deeply in the proposals he made for reforming city government and re-invigorating the morale of our citizens. Likewise, he sought to become a justice of this court because he cares deeply about our commonwealth and the judicial system, and he believes he can make a difference in the administration of justice.

In the most recent election, Ron discussed various specific proposals for implementing innovations and reforms in the judicial system. I am positive that he not only believes in them, but will join you in your continuing effort to improve the quality of justice in this commonwealth.

As Paul Diamond has said, Ron was a merit scholarship finalist and then received scholarships to both Auburn and the University of Virginia Law School. He was also a member of the law school's national moot court team. He was editor of both his undergraduate and law school newspapers, and I am certain that his legal opinions as a justice will prove to be as well reasoned and written as his law school articles, even if in most cases slightly less amusing.

Ron was considered one of the finest trial lawyers in the district attorney's office when he was an A.D.A. As district attorney, he co-authored reform legislation concerning juvenile offenders, and with respect to drug dealers, the Forfeiture Act, and mandatory minimum sentencing. He also implemented innovative programs to aid crime victims and to improve the enforcement of child support legislation.

Ron has always exhibited true leadership abilities. Most of us here today are fully aware of the medals he was awarded as a marine during the Vietnam war. I also want to point out that he was vice president of Virginia Law School and he served as vice chairman of the university's honor board. Anyone who has been associated with the University of Virginia

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can attest to the seriousness with which the University and its students view the honor code and the importance of this position at the University.

I agree with Ron's position supporting merit selection of judges. However, Ron is an individual whose intellectual abilities, educational background, common sense, and experience in the public sector clearly qualify him under any set of standards for admission as a member of this Commonwealth's Supreme Court.

I believe you will find Ron to be an intelligent, hard-working, and fair-minded individual who will prove to be a worthy associate. I also trust that in due course you will come to appreciate and even possibly enjoy Ron's rather unique brand of humor.

And lastly, you will recognize that beneath his outward appearance and seeming reserve is a public servant who cares deeply about issues, ethics, and performing his duties to the best of his ability. Thank you.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Thank you very much. (applause)

It is the court's pleasure now to recognize James T. McDermott, Jr., Esquire.

MR. McDERMOTT: Mr. Chief Justice.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: As you know, his father was a distinguished member of this court. I also considered him a very warm, close friend.

MR. McDERMOTT: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: And it's a pleasure for me to be here to see you in front of the bar of the court.

MR. McDERMOTT: Thank you very much, your Honor.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: And I want you to prove to me that you're more eloquent than your dad. (laughter)

Not as verbose, however. (laughter)

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MR. McDERMOTT: Mr. Chief Justice, if it pleases the court, honored guests, family and friends of Justice-elect Ronald D. Castille, I am honored that Justice-elect Castille asked me to speak on his behalf about the friendship that he and my father, Justice James T. McDermott, shared for so many years. The common bond that these two men enjoyed may best be reflected by today's induction and that of my father's in January of 1982.

We all know that the swearing in of a Philadelphian to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court does not happen overnight. There is a tremendous amount of work involved to achieve glorious days such as these. I believe that the groundwork for the induction of my father as a Supreme Court Justice and Justice-elect Castille's induction today grew out of days gone by in courtroom 653 in the 1970's. It was there in that magnificent courtroom in their roles as trial judge and assistant district attorney that these two men formed a mutual respect for each other, while at the same time defining their life's work of protecting the rights of citizens to live safely in our beloved city.

It was in that courtroom, each of them with their own dramatic flair, that these two dedicated public servants planted the seeds which years later led them to the pinnacles of their careers as justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Their mutual respect quickly grew into a friendship that far exceeded the walls of courtroom 653, and which took them to such happy places as Avalon, New Jersey. It was there that the two had the opportunity to share their beliefs on law and order and protection of the citizens of the city of Philadelphia. It was at get-togethers like those in Avalon that a tremendous friendship was born and their political futures were cast.

On behalf of the McDermott family, I wish to express to Justice and Judy Castille our sincere best wishes. We can think of no person so suitable to become the next justice from our great city than its former district attorney.

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As a family, we are also delighted that our father's successor is a man that he held in such high esteem. We know the tremendous tasks ahead for Justice Castille, but my family also knows of the unique qualities that this special man brings to this honored court. We know that because of today, many of our common beliefs, the things we hold dearest, will be ever protected in this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, your Honor.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Thank you very much. (applause)

We will now have a reading of the commission by Ms. Anne B. Anstine.

MS. ANSTINE: Thank you. Mr. Chief Justice, I don't have prepared remarks but I'm going to speak from the heart just briefly, because I was so involved in recruiting Ron Castille for this position. I am so proud to stand here today before you and tell you that you will have a wonderful person by your side, someone that I detected several years ago who would aspire—

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: You can't imagine how receptive I am to that comment.

MS. ANSTINE: This is a wonderful celebration today to have Ron's family, to have his friends, and friends across this great commonwealth, to come here today and pay tribute to this wonderful young man, and I am so pleased and honored to be a part of this. Ron has asked me to do the commission, and I will do it at this time.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, governor's office: Ron Castille, of the county of Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greetings:

WHEREAS, it appears by the certificate and the returns made according to law of the election held on the second day of November, A.D. one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three, you have been elected Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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THEREFORE, know ye that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and thereunto belonging or by law in any wise pertaining, for a term of ten years, to be computed from the first Monday of January, A.D. one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: You're emphasizing that. (laughter)

MS. ANSTINE: Given under my hand and the great seal of this state, at the city of Harrisburg, this 22nd day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three, and of the commonwealth two hundred and eighteen. Signed by Robert P. Casey, Governor; and by the Governor Secretary of the Commonwealth, Secretary Mitchell. (applause)

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Before I ask the Justice-elect to come to the podium to accept the oath of office, I wanted to note that normally it is appropriate to recognize certain dignitaries in the assemblage present. Unfortunately, as I look around, I would be giving a roll call of everyone present, and I think because of their background and their stature, it need not be noted by me publicly, but all present would recognize their presence. (laughter)

A long time ago my daddy told me that if you go into a place, if there are a number of illustrious people, you don't ever attempt to begin to recognize them because invariably you're going to miss someone, admittedly inappropriately, and you'll never be forgiven. So because of my cowardice, I recognize you all. (laughter)

At this point, we will have the robing by the family. It will be done by Judy Castille and Marie Castille.

(Robing of Justice-elect Castille.)

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THE COURT CRIER: At this time we would like to have all rise.

(All present comply with request.)

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Would you raise your right hand, Justice-elect.

(Justice-elect Castille complies with request.)

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: I ... and your name.

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: I, Ronald D. Castille ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... do solemnly swear ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... do solemnly swear ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... that I will support ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... that I will support ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... obey ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... obey ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... and defend ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... and defend ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... the Constitution of the United States ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... the Constitution of the United States ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... and the Constitution of this Commonwealth ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... and the Constitution of this Commonwealth ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... that I will discharge the duties ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... that I will discharge the duties ...

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MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... of my office ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... of my office ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... with fidelity ...

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... with fidelity ...

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: ... so help me God.

MR. JUSTICE-ELECT CASTILLE: ... so help me God.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: We wish you all of the best.
Congratulations.

(standing ovation)

THE COURT CRIER: Be seated.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: Over the years I've always had some hesitancy at this point; to tell a fellow justice, "You may make appropriate remarks." You never know when they'll end. (laughter)

But in this instance, I have absolute confidence that not only will he recognize the advisability of brevity but there will also be substance. Justice, you may proceed.

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you very much, Chief Justice Nix. I just can't tell you how I feel sitting up here. I never thought I'd be here. I've been down there a lot, but I never thought I'd be up here. This is a great day.

Your Honor, I would like you to extend my personal well wishes and the apologies for Justice Zappala, Justice Cappy, and Justice Flaherty, who called me this morning, and due to the vagaries of being sworn in in the dead of winter, they're trapped in Pittsburgh; they could not make it. I also convey the respect and the thanks of Justice Montemuro who is in Philadelphia but informed me today that he has taken very ill and is going home, and they all wish that they could be here, and they send you their respects.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: They have advised us. I'm glad you mentioned it.

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MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: And they extend those same respects to my wife and my family, who are with me here today.

I would like to, if I could, recognize some of the individuals who are with me here today, Mr. Chief Justice Nix. There are members of the Commonwealth Court who I have long friendships with: Judge Colins, who Tad Decker and I took the bar exam with together many many years ago, and Doris Smith ...

VOICE IN THE AUDIENCE: Who got the highest score?
(laughter)

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: We all passed. (laughter)

... Members of the superior court before whom I've practiced, Common Pleas Court Judges in the courtroom here who I've tried cases with and who together we have tried to administer the crushing backlog and the crushing burden of crime that we see in the major city, particularly the president judges whom I worked under: Judge Donald Jamieson, who was the first president judge, and Judge Ed Bradley, Judge Edward Blake. I'm not sure if Judge Blake is here. But those are the three president judges that I worked with most to try and make this system in this city work.

I see judges of the municipal court are with me, one of the hard-working courts that we have in Pennsylvania that does an excellent job. I see elected officials in the audience, my friend and political mentor and a person who together, he and I, and many other members of the district attorney's association, fought long and hard for some of the laws that are in effect on the books of Pennsylvania. The attorney general of the state of Pennsylvania, Ernie Preate, is in the audience, and I see Senator Mike Fisher who came in from Pittsburgh. I guess I shouldn't ask him how he got here. (laughter)

I see Rick Santorum, and he's also a congressman from Pittsburgh, and they were very helpful in bringing this election to fruition in the western part of the state. We did very well in the western part of the state.

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I recognize the Reverend Hall, whom I have had the pleasure to hear him when he really gets sermonizing at Triumph Baptist Church in North Philadelphia. My family and I shared services up there with Reverend Hall, and he's a fantastic individual.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: And I trust that that influence will continue over the years.

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: If I ever feel like straying, I'll just go up to Triumph Baptist Church and get a little dose of righteousness and learn the right way to go.

There are many many people in the audience who have been my friends over the years. I'd like to introduce my family to you who will come up here. As you have heard, my father came out of the swamps, I guess, and the bayous of Louisiana. He was a bomber pilot in World War II, and we grew up in the military, so we lived many many places. They all chose to live in Florida. I, of course, chose to live in Pennsylvania. The Chief Justice asked my family who made the right choice, when you look outside. (laughter)

We have some idea that the Florida crowd perhaps made the right choice.

The first person I'd like to introduce is my wife Judy, who's been with me through some of these political wars and some of the slings and arrows that we've had to suffer because of the way politics are. Judy, please stand up. (applause)

My family members are here. My father passed away. He's no longer with us. Unfortunately he died in 1991, but he was able to see some of my election victories, both of them as district attorney of the city of Philadelphia. I'm sure he would have been just as proud or more proud to have been here or to witness what we are seeing here today. My mother is here. Mom, Marie Castille, please stand up. (applause)

My brother, Bobby Castille. Bobby. (applause)

My brother—my sister, Colleen Castille. Sorry, sis. (applause)

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My other sister, Danielle. Danielle. (applause)

My other sister, Cathy Henley. (applause)

And I see Judy's father, Commander Bob O'Connor, and his wife Phyllis; and Judy's sister, I believe, is here, Nancy, in the back. And that's about most of our family here. So, thank you for being with me here today.

And I see some of our esteemed friends from the federal bench. I see my good friend and former political advisor, Judge Jay Waldman, from the eastern district.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: He no longer advises, I'm sure. (laughter)

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: He has ceased to advise me. I can't say when, but he has ceased to advise me. (laughter)

And I see Judge Brody and Magistrate Justice Melinson. I see my old friend, the U.S. Attorney and one of those individuals who I worked with many years, both as a boss and a colleague, Mike Stiles, in the back; Mike Baylson; Judge Harvey Bartle, who was one of my political advisors also, before he went to the federal bench. (laughter)

And my good friend and a really wonderful gentleman who was one of my mentors in the republican party. That's Herb Barnett from Bucks County, who's a national republican committeeman.

Did I see Thatcher Longstreth in here somewhere? Hello, Thatcher; how are you?

MR. LONGSTRETH: Another advisor. (laughter)

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: And he can still advise me. Well, no more; no more.

I hope I don't miss anybody, but I have friends in the audience, and I'm especially proud to have Tad Decker, my old roommate; and Paul Diamond, my colleague; and of course, Jamie McDermott say those kind words; and Anne Anstine also.

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Originally when I was elected, these individuals kept saying to me, "Justice," they said, "Well, what shall we call you, 'the Honorable' or whatever?" I said, "Wait until January 3rd before you become obsequious and fawning." (laughter)

And they did, and they were. (laughter)

And I thank you for those kind words.

There are many friends of mine in the audience and many individuals who have helped me on the campaigns, including Paul and Tad. Gordon Woodrow is one of my political advisors. Shanin Specter. Pat Meehan. I don't see Pat over there. Pat Killian.

My campaign finance person, Charley Kopp, is in the audience, one of the most important individuals that you can have on a campaign; and my last campaign chairman, one of the first individuals who supported me politically, former justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Bruce Kauffman.

I see individuals from my law firm which has also supported me, as I've gone out for those two-and-a-half years in private practice: Mike Brown, who is an attorney with Reed Smith Shaw and McClay is here, as is Dan Booker, the managing partner of the entire law firm of Reed Smith Shaw and McClay, and I certainly appreciated their support over these many years that I've been in private practice, and they have wished me well as I go towards the bench.

I see Richard Glanton, one of my partners from Reed Smith, Lucille Hooton-Lynch who's leaving Reed Smith to be my chief law clerk, many other individuals in the audience: Bill Lamb, the vice chairman of the republican party, and Anne Anstine, of course, is the chairman of the republican party. You're right, Justice, I could probably name everyone in this audience.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: And you're getting in trouble. (laughter)

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: Tom Saylor who has, of course, just been elected to the superior court. (laughter)

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And many, many friends and supporters from over the years who have been with me through thick and thin. So, I thank each and every one of you for being here today.

And I really thank all of the leaders of the great state of Pennsylvania who I have had the pleasure to work with over the years who have really guided me, have given me information, have given me assistance, and through their help it is today that I'm taking this oath of office for the highest court in the state, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

I want to thank all my many friends in the political arena who have over these many years performed a lot of acts on my behalf, both large and small, in the far flung areas of this state, but always with care, with concern, and even with passion, which resulted in the successful election to this highest court.

I wanted to thank my many co-workers in law enforcement and in the prosecution. Mike Marino is here and Bill Ryan, some of my fellow D.A.s from the surrounding counties who have been friends over the years. Their personal efforts in helping me get to where I was in the challenging arena of public safety in the last 20 years have helped me to build the kind of record that I took to the citizens this past November and they elected me to the court to fulfill. I thank them.

I want to thank many of my friends in the veterans community and the veterans organizations whom I've worked with and who have overwhelmingly supported me in this last election. Pennsylvania, if it is anything, it is patriotic, with the long and glorious history of military service to our nation, and those veterans supported me fully in this election.

I would at this time offer special thanks to Justice Montemuro, who I was hoping would be here, but I wanted to thank him for his service in sitting in this seat that I am now occupying, a seat that became vacant after the untimely death of a man that we all knew and respected, Justice James T. McDermott. He was my friend; he was my mentor; and I'll never forget him.

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By all accounts, Justice Montemuro's service on this bench has been excellent and it should be recognized by all Pennsylvanians as a great service to the commonwealth. I look forward to his further service as a Senior Supreme Court Justice on this bench and as a colleague and as a friend.

This is a happy occasion for me but one tinged with sadness as I become a member of the highest court of the state, historically the oldest supreme court in this nation, dating back to its founding in the year 1722, two hundred and seventy-two years previously.

I have achieved what many in my profession can only idly speculate about, service on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The occasion is tinged with sadness because this seat was occupied by one of the most unique individuals that I have ever known, Justice James T. McDermott, a scholar, a gentleman, a caring family man and a man who enormously loved the law.

He was a man who was too soon taken from us by the hand of God, and I am particularly pleased that Jim's family is here with me today to share this moment, and I would like to really think that they feel like I truly feel, that Justice McDermott looks down upon this occasion and that he is smiling and saying, as he often would upon a successful verdict in a jury trial that I had before him or on the two occasions that I was honored when he swore me in as district attorney of the city of Philadelphia, a simple, "well done, Ronald."

At times like this, I think about the time that Moe shaped my life and gave me new perspective on life itself, how fleeting it could have been, and how short a time that we have to give our lives meaning.

I think of the time in combat in the Marine Corps in Vietnam and of the many fellow Marines that I lost there, whose names are now inscribed on memorials to the sacrifice of their lives in the military service to this great nation.

I think of Corporal Angel Mendez, who braved enemy fire to pull me to safety after I was seriously wounded in a Viet-

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namese rice paddy during a pitched battle with North Vietnamese army regulars, and I dedicate this stage of accomplishment, as I have many of the other accomplishments of my life, to those heroes who are not with us today and to Corporal Mendez, who was killed in that battle, a brave Marine whom I shall never forget.

As I traveled the great state of Pennsylvania during the past election, as I used to say, "From Tinicum to Titiute and from Lower Turkeyfoot to Drain Lick and back." Believe me, I've been to every one of those places, and if you have been to those places, God bless you.

I observed, though, that the great expanse of Pennsylvania, reaching from the Delaware Valley to the shores of Lake Erie, from the Laurel highlands to the head waters of the Susquehanna, I was always impressed by the natural beauty of the great state of Pennsylvania and how this beauty changes with the changing of the seasons, especially the glorious autumnal colors in the fall.

I was equally impressed by Pennsylvania's greatest resource, the citizens of this state. No matter where I went, from the inner communities of our major cities to the rural farm country, I met hard-working dedicated people who inevitably greeted me with warm care and interest in this campaign, and they showed a care and concern about the court system.

Almost to a person, I found concern over our courts and our citizens' perception of serious troubles within the court system. Unfortunately, front page headlines, generated by unsubstantiated accusations and investigations at the very highest levels of our court system, tainted the court's reputation with a broad brush stroke.

That brush stroke inevitably trickled down to tarnish the reputation of the entire court system and that of many of the men and women who I found labored tirelessly to make our courts function. It seemed that the citizens everywhere were beginning to lose confidence that the justice system was work-

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ing, and that is truly sad. If the citizens do not respect our courts, then the very fabric of our government is in danger.

As has been noted by my friend Paul Diamond, the courts command no army, nor do they command any police force to do their bidding. The courts' command is only by the respect of the citizens and by moral suasion. Respect commands example. Indeed, respect is engendered by example. To quote the American essayist Henry Ward Beecher, "Take all of the robes of all of the good judges who have ever lived on the face of the earth and they would not be large enough to cover the iniquity of one corrupt judge." So we must begin to restore the respect of the court. To restore respect for our courts will be no easy task, but the time for change is at hand. Unfortunately, the most recent chapter in this court history has not played its final hand, but hopefully the beginning of a new era for our courts has begun. We are on the threshold of this new era as the court faces the millennium. This very court itself has recognized the need to reassess its direction and its operations. We have witnessed the recent announcements by the supreme court of an evaluation of its practices and procedures for the purpose of leading this and all the courts of the state into the next century.

I agree with the court's action. Just as all other institutions of this great nation, just as the co-equal branches of our government have had to reevaluate their ability to deliver a product with diminishing resources more efficiently, so, too, must the court system.

I intend to play an active role in the reform of our court system and of the legal profession. During my tenure on this bench, so long as it shall be or if I behave well, as the commission says, a term that I already may rule that is void for vagueness, the questions are simple.

The questions are: Can we do this better? Can we do this more efficiently? Can we do it with fewer resources, and as importantly, can we still deliver justice? These are the questions that I believe the citizens have asked in this last election,

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and these are the questions to which I believe that the court must respond.

I will work hard to see that justice is done in the many important matters that appear before this court. I will heed well the admonition of Euripides, who offered this advice 400 years before Christ, "Keep alive the light of justice, and much that men say in blame will pass you by." If we can convince the citizens that justice is being delivered by our supreme court and in all the courts of this commonwealth, then we will be able to lay to rest the recent sad history of this court.

I will also work just as hard to make this court what it should be, an institution respected by attorneys and litigants who practice before it, a court admired by legal scholars and by those concerned with the law, both within and without the state of Pennsylvania, an institution that our citizens can have confidence in, that they all will know that even though they may never come before this court, that if they do or should ever have to, that justice will be done to their cause.

In closing, on this happy occasion, as I begin a new phase of my 23 years of public service to this nation, to the state, and to my community, and in the presence of my colleagues, my friends, my supporters, and my family, I would cite President Teddy Roosevelt who said these words in commemorating a Labor Day long since past, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Life and fate have offered me a great prize. There can be little doubt that the work of this court is worth doing, and there is no doubt that hard work will be the order of the day.

I look forward to what I hope will be a long and successful tenure on this court. I look forward to working for reform, and I look forward to offering a chance to contribute meaningfully to the future of Pennsylvania. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you very much. (applause)

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: When I was a little boy, every once in a while I was given to pontification. And one day my

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father said to me, "You can say anything you want to say, but you have to back it up." And I am very pleased to know the direction that you're thinking, my new colleague. I can assure you you will have my confidence, my support, as long as you follow that path you have set forth. I think it's needed to be done, and I'm deeply convinced that you are committed to that.

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you, chief.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE NIX: You can't imagine how that unburdened this burdened soul. I would like to make a note, there were certain individuals who wanted to make comments on this occasion.

First, I have a letter from one of my colleagues, one of your new colleagues, Justice Cappy, who asked would I be kind enough to read the enclosed letter, which states:

"Dear Mr. Justice Castille: As you know, Justices Flaherty, Zappala, and I were scheduled to fly to Philadelphia in order to attend your induction ceremony. I regret to say that the weather on the western frontier prevents us from doing so.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your wonderful family on your elevation to the bench. The people of Pennsylvania have chosen a man who has exhibited throughout his life certain personal qualities which should be revered by all of us who must attempt to keep order in our highly complex and pluralistic society. Your extraordinary courage in the face of personal tragedy and, as importantly, your undying perseverance in overcoming personal adversity bodes well for us on the court. We welcome such a man of such strength. I will be available for you at your convenience. Again, I apologize for not being present."

I also have remarks basically or information from the other justices who, as noted in that letter that I've just read, were unable to come, although they had anticipated coming. One thing that a young justice ought to learn very early, and that is that we may propose but there are times that some forces

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are higher and can intervene, and it's interesting that you had an occasion to learn that at the outset of your tenure.

In closing, let me say to you that I personally am very pleased to welcome you to the court. I am convinced, after observing your public actions over the years, that you do have the commitment that I think is absolutely critical at this time to be a part of this bench. I am certain the confidence of those here present is well deserved, and I am certain that your input over the years will be significant in the history of the court.

This court, as you may or may not know, is the oldest state highest appellate tribunal in the nation. Over the centuries, it has gained great honor and at certain times, unfortunately, there have been periods not as glamorous, but any institution has to expect the ups and downs. What really determines the caliber of that institution is whether or not during those times of adversity that institution is capable of rising to the assault upon it and overcoming by meeting the tradition that is expected of a court. Your presence today reassures me that we are now in a position, with your help, to again bring this court to the level of respect it really deserves.

I think when we look at the history of an institution that has been in existence since the 1700's, you cannot take a small segment of time to assess that tradition. I think this is the beginning of a new golden age for this court. I know that has been my commitment and my desire, and I am encouraged by the fact that you will be here to work with us and to strive for those things that you have referred to today.

We wish to thank all that have come today, and we assure you that the presence of our new colleague will be meaningful in the direction of this court's future. Is there anyone else that you would want to mention? (laughter)

MR. JUSTICE CASTILLE: I saw the two guys that drove me around are in the camp. Susan. There's Susan.

THE COURT CRIER: This court now stands adjourned.