

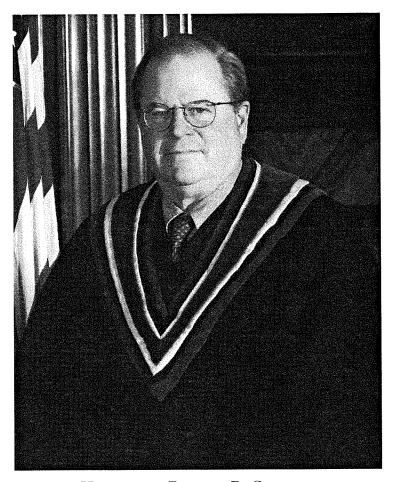
## Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

# Installation

# HONORABLE RONALD D. CASTILLE

Monday, January 14, 2008 3:00 p.m. City Hall Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





HONORABLE RONALD D. CASTILLE

## Proceedings

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Justice Ronald D. Castille, his wife Susan, their family, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the entire judiciary, I welcome you to an auspicious and happy occasion.

The elevation of Ron Castille to the position of Chief Justice. He will be the 55th Chief Justice in the history of Pennsylvania.

As many of you know, although there is a dispute raging between Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, we are reputedly the oldest Supreme Court in the United States, having been established in 1722.

The debate rages over when the charter arrived from England. My good friend, Chief Justice Marshall from Massachusetts, claims that their charter got here first and they are the oldest. However, we claim that prize and Ron will become, has become, he will formally become one of the long litany of Chief Justices in Pennsylvania.

I should begin by quoting one of our famous movie actors here in the United States, Jack Nicholson, one of his roles was in The Shining, if you will recall, he simply states, "I'm back."

I want to thank Chief Justice Castille for inviting me to assume the position as the senior justice for one day.

I waive the fee, Ron, on that, and that will make you happy. It is, indeed, a distinct pleasure and honor to be able to preside over this momentous occasion, particularly, with my good friend, Ron Castille, who will assume this position.

We will begin. I would like to introduce to you His Eminence, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia for an invocation.

CARDINAL RIGALI: Almighty and eternal God, we praise and bless your name. You are the just and holy one You are compassionate and merciful. Put forth your blessings upon Chief Justice Ronald Castille as he begins today his new mission. May his service of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be marked by justice and compassion that is found in all its fullness in you.

Grant him the grace and strength to persevere in the responsibility that has been entrusted to him. In the face of daunting challenges, grant him patience. In the face of the complexities of life, grant him the wisdom of Solomon. In all things both great and small, help him to do your holy will. Help him to be a faithful servant here on Earth so that one day he may enjoy the gift of your presence in the joy of heaven. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

I would like to add, very briefly, as you can see by the programs that you have, this program is going to test my skills at moving things along at a reasonable rate.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention on behalf of Ron and Susan how much they regret that many of their personal friends, admirers, colleagues, and professional friends aren't able to be here with us in this room. The size of the room speaks for itself.

They wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the limitation of the room limited the number of people who could be here, but they are very thankful to the giant show of support they have both been offered. Hopefully we will see everyone at the reception that follows this ceremony.

I would also like to make special recognition for the record. I am going to take a chance here because I can't see down here, but I've been told that we are favored by five former colleagues. I have no idea the order in which they are seated so I'll just try to do this from memory. I know that we have former Justice William Lamb because I did say hello. Justice Sandra Newman, Justice Cynthia Baldwin, Justice Jim Fitzgerald, and I am now going to have to peek. And Ed

Rendell, of course. My friend and former colleague, Russell Nigro.

Thank you all for coming. I know that Ron and Susan deeply appreciate it, as all of us do around the court.

As I said, we have a challenge. We have eleven speakers, plus you will hear from each of us concisely and to the point and so I'll do whatever I can to make this an enjoyable experience and to move things along.

And we will begin with our leader here in Pennsylvania, the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania.

GOVERNOR RENDELL: Good afternoon, Chief Justice Cappy.

May it please the Court, let me begin by recognizing not only this honorable and great Court, but the five former Justices, three of whom I have had the good fortune to appoint and who served brilliantly in their interim status and Associate Justices.

It is good to see Justice Nigro and Justice Newman back to join us for this great occasion.

You know, throughout his long and extraordinary successful career in public life, Ron Castille has always been surprising people. Everything about him tends to surprise people.

When you hear that he is a great skier and a terrific golfer, we are surprised.

When I first started out in the DA's office with him I heard his slow sort of southern drawl, I was surprised to find out that in a few short months he became one of the best and most effective trial lawyers, not only to serve in the Office of the District Attorney, but perhaps one of the best and most effective trial lawyers to serve in this great building in its entire history.

When I became District Attorney and I was looking to start up a new division in the District Attorney's Office, Career Criminal Division, which was going to be so important, the success or failure of the office, people told me when I mentioned Ron's name as a possible leader they said, well he

is obviously a great trial lawyer, but he has no interest in administration and he would be a disaster as the head of the Career Criminal Unit.

But I went ahead and I thought that Ron could lead by example, and so he did. And he turned the Career Criminal Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office into a model for the entire nation.

And then, as I was leaving office, the Republican Party turned to Ron Castille to run for District Attorney and everyone in Philadelphia thought, well, there is no way a Republican in this city could get elected to this office.

Well, again, Ron Castille surprised people and went on, let me check—is Lynne Abraham, here? Is Arlen Specter here? He went on to be the second best DA in the history of Pennsylvania.

And when Ron was solicited to the Supreme Court people said, no Philadelphian can win a statewide election for a post as high as the Supreme Court. But he did. And he won it decisively.

When he came to the court, people said, well, he is just another politician and he will add to the politics of this court.

And as you recall, when Ron joined the court, itself, it was at one of the lowest's moments of the court's history. But I did see what many people didn't know. That Ron Castille was far more than a politician, but someone who had a great love and understanding of the law, mixed with a true understanding of how the law must serve ordinary people and serve them well.

And I knew that he would take his responsibilities tremendously seriously and that he would participate in lifting this court. And I think it is fair to say, and obviously as Ron would tell you, he is not the only one responsible for this, but from that time to the present the Supreme Court has gone from a court mired with controversy and ill repute in many ways, to one of the finest courts in the land.

Ron Castille would surprise us continually in the leadership that he will bring to this great court. Following the wonderful leadership that we had under Ralph Cappy, Ron

Castille will be a great leader and take this court to places it has never been before.

Ron, for all of us who worked with you in the past, for all of us who have been your friends in the past, this is, of course, your day, but it is our day, too.

Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: I'm so disappointed. I forgot to turn my microphone on and the one judge—I'm back, they missed it.

JUSTICE CASTILLE: It wasn't that good anyway.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Now you have some idea what I had to put up with all these years.

We don't want to venture down the road of trying to identify so many notable people in the audience. I see many that I know and many, I'm sure, my colleagues will pass on. It is always a risky proposition, but there is one person that I would like to recognize and welcome to our court, our First Lady of Pennsylvania, Judge Midge Rendell, who I can personally attest, works out every day. We ran into each other at a conference just a couple days ago in the exercise room.

Welcome, First Lady.

I see Members of the PBA, the leadership of the Allegheny County Bar, the Philadelphia leadership. I see ex-Chancellors seated throughout the room, many of the federal judges. And, again, apologies for lack of individual recognition. Everyone in this room, obviously, is very important in the Castilles' lives and they are very appreciative for your being here.

Attorney General Corbett has been delayed so it will be my honor to present to you the Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, if he is here.

He is on his way.

I know the next person is here because I see him sitting in front of me. He is President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Andrew Susko.

MR. SUSKO: Chief Justice Emeritus Cappy, Chief Justice Ronald Castille, esteemed Justices of the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court, Governor Ed Rendell, distinguished judges, and fellow Pennsylvania attorneys, family and friends, and guests of Chief Justice Castille.

May it please this Honorable Court, it is truly a privilege and high honor for me to congratulate Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille on behalf of the 29,000 Members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association on his ascension to the position of Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

At this special time it is entirely fitting and appropriate that we reflect both on the institution of the Supreme Court and the man about to become the highest officer of the highest court in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is the oldest Supreme Court in the country, predating even the United States Supreme Court.

Its existence as an independent court, and the first of its kind in the colonies, was skillfully developed by then speaker of the Pennsylvania House, Chester County lawyer, David Lloyd, in an agreement with the King of England.

The result, a great political compromise, the judiciary bill, creating the first colonial independent judiciary passed in 1722–some 285 years ago.

The fact that an independent Supreme Court was first created right here in Pennsylvania is a testimony to our legal community's longstanding commitment to a justice system that from its inception was envisioned to answer to the rule of law, not to the King.

We only need look at the recent events in Pakistan to know exactly how blessed we are to have an independent judiciary, one centered on protecting against the tyranny of the majority and preserving and protecting the individual rights and liberties of all Pennsylvanians in accordance with the law.

As the Pennsylvania Bar Association, we are confident that these principles will be secure in the hands of our new Chief Justice.

And just as this court protects and defends the rights of individuals, the organized bar and legal profession has the obligation to stand up and protect our justice system.

The judiciary has no power, separate from the authority granted by the constitution and the well expressed and reasoned opinions of the Court. The Court has no authority to fund itself, to appropriate money, to levy a tax, to raise an army or to protect itself or enforce its orders. Indeed, the Court has little, if any, ability to defend itself against an institutional attack.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association was so proud of our legal community and local bar associations who came together this past fall to stand united in opposition to an effort to oust all the sitting judges up for retention. An effort that threatened the very independence of our judges and the justice system itself.

Chief Justice Castille, who is about to accept his commission ceremonially as Chief Justice today, possesses outstanding attributes that will serve him well as he assumes the role of Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice's responsibilities extend beyond the determination of individual cases. They include the administration of our courts to ensure that the justice system is fair and accessible to all Pennsylvanians.

Importantly, the Chief Justice is charged with the obligation to demand and attain the best from the members of this high court, both in terms of individual participation and collective decision making, to reach a compromise where appropriate and to create the environment where disagreement among individual justices can occur without adverse effect to the pending case or the decision-making process for future cases. To do this well requires a Chief Justice who possesses great leadership skill, wisdom, understanding, and patience.

To his newly assumed duties Chief Justice Castille brings an intellectual capability second to none. A National Merit Scholar in high school, an Academic Scholar at Auburn University, and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, which he earned with distinction.

Chief Justice Castille has exhibited great intellectual ability and a tremendous capacity to cut decisively through peripheral items to the very heart and essence of a legal matter.

He brings a deep passion for public service, service for the betterment of his country and the legal profession.

That service includes, notably, his combat duty in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam. A decorated war veteran, he demonstrated great courage and valor placing his life in harm's way, and ultimately, sacrificing his leg in the line of duty for our country.

His passion for public service continued during his 14–year tenure as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia before he was elected to serve as the District Attorney. And closer to this court, he was elected as a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1993, and was overwhelmingly retained by the voters in 2003.

Perhaps most importantly is Chief Justice Castille's quiet, but strong and tenacious leadership ability from his service in Vietnam as a platoon leader to his days in the District Attorney's Office where he led that office to now holding the highest judicial office in the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Ron Castille has exhibited a lifetime of leadership and dedication to the ideals and aspirations that we as lawyers hold dear.

For those in the legal community who know him well, there is no doubt that His Honor will be a great Chief Justice of our Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

We are confident that Chief Justice Castille will call upon his leadership abilities directing a very strong and exceptional Supreme Court. No single justice is better positioned and skilled to bring this court together as one for the betterment of our justice system and the legal profession than is Chief Justice Ron Castille.

And we, too, at the Bar Association, are looking forward to working with the Court to improve our legal system and promote equal access to justice for all persons in the Commonwealth.

Judges across Pennsylvania share a commitment to fairness and impartiality in application of the rule of law.

For the judiciary, the ideals of deciding cases fairly, based solely on the facts and law presented, reaching decisions free from outside influence and pressure and making rulings even in the face of strong opposition from the majority are essential and among the highest ideals of judicial service.

For a select few, these ideals become so engrained, so deeply embedded, that they quite literally become character traits of an individual judge. And so it is with Chief Justice Ron Castille. He is a man of great honor, integrity, and has conducted himself with a selfless dedication to achieving what is best in our noble legal profession and justice system.

On behalf of the Members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, we celebrate this important and historic moment with great joy in having such a good man, a man of honor, decency, and integrity ascend to the highest position on the highest court in Pennsylvania.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Chief Justice Ron Castille.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you, Mr. Susko, and thank your organization along with the other Bar Associations for your continued support for the judiciary and its effort to remain an independent judiciary based in the rule of law and not under some outside influence.

I would like to recognize, for the record, the President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the President Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, Kate Ford–Elliott and Bonnie Leadbetter.

I would also like to recognize the linchpin that holds our administrative structure together when it comes to supervising the entire judiciary, our court administrator, Zyg Pines, Zygmont Pines.

I see Mayor Nutter is now here and if you had a moment to collect yourself, Mayor, I'm privileged to make a formal introduction of the Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

MAYOR NUTTER: Chief Justice Cappy, Chief Justice Castille, and to this most honorable Supreme Court, and the other Justices participating.

First, there is nothing worse than to have your presence or lack thereof noticed by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. It is worse than being called to the principal's office.

I apologize to the Court for my lateness and I ask that in any other decisions that may be made, that it not be held against us, the citizens of this great city.

And to all the other participants who are too numerous to try to acknowledge, and I would only get myself in further trouble here in this court, so I'm going to try to stop before doing any more damage.

It really is a tremendous honor to be here. Chief Justice Castille, I had an opportunity to talk with on numerous occasions, work with, and in an earlier life when the Justice was running for District Attorney, I as a democrat, was working for the other candidate. And it was clear that Justice Castille was going to be victorious and would be a great DA. And as a result of my efforts on that campaign, Governor Rendell somehow decided to then bring me onto his campaign staff for the '86 governor's race, during which I helped him lose that campaign.

I may have had some recent success electorally myself, I wish to put all the other candidates on notice that if you really want to win you will not have me on your campaign staff.

Chief Justice Castille has set a tremendous new tone for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. His announcement just recently that he wanted the Court to be totally nonpolitical is a tremendous public statement to which I make great applause for that. And instead of D's and R's coming either before or after a justice's name that may be printed, Justice Castille has basically said he wants the word "fairness" to come in any context mentioning of the justices of the Supreme Court.

We all know that he was not born here, but is, I think, thoroughly considered, even by Philadelphia standards to be a native son of Philadelphia. That usually takes 50 to 60, possibly 70–some-odd years, to be a true Philadelphian, but we've lowered that.

Your service in the military with great honor and distinction further enhances your public service and recognition of who you are.

And lastly, as a Philadelphian, and to have a person who has been here for so long and had such an impact on this great city, but more importantly, the entire justice system, it is certainly as a Philadelphian with great pride to have you sitting as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the oldest Supreme Court in the United States of America.

I look forward to working with you. We are all very proud and I just want to say congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you very much, Mayor Nutter.

I would also like to recognize, for the record, the President Judge of the First Judicial District, County of Philadelphia, Judge Darnell Jones. And next to him is the Administrator of Judges of the Trial Division of that Court, Webster Keogh, as well as the President Judge of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, Lou Presenza. Thank you very much for being here.

It would be fitting for me to also recognize, of course, the current District Attorney of Philadelphia, Lynne Abraham, thank you for being here. And the former Attorney General of Pennsylvania, our good friend, General Roy Zimmerman. And the present Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Thomas Corbett.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CORBETT: If it may please the Court and Justice Cappy, I did not know whether we were going to make it. I didn't know it took so long to catch a train from New York City down to here, today. So my apologies for being late.

It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to appear among so many distinguished guests, predecessors, and friends from all over Pennsylvania in celebrating this very momentous occasion.

We are really here to mark a transition, a passing of the torch, a new Chief Justice, the 55th Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. As we know, the highest, most esteemed court in Pennsylvania.

But speaking of passing the torch, I would like to recognize Chief Justice Ralph Cappy. Cappy, you and I go back a long way.

I can remember appearing in front of him, trying cases in front of him as a young assistant district attorney, arguing cases against him when he was a public defender and I was still a young assistant district attorney.

I just want to congratulate you on your retirement, although I know it is not "retirement" retirement, and to thank you for your 35 years of public service to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

And as you retire, there is no doubt that Justice Castille is prepared to take the reins as chief justice.

As you all know in this room, this is really singing to a choir, Ron Castille has already dedicated 14 years to the Supreme Court. I can't believe it has been that many years. Rendered many precedent-setting opinions and committed countless hours to improving the quality of justice for all of Pennsylvania. His entire life has been a testament of service and tradition and dedication.

He has made incredible sacrifices by heroically serving his country in Vietnam. He has spent 15 years dedicated to protecting the citizens of Philadelphia in the trenches in the District Attorney's Office, and another five years leading that office as District Attorney, managing over 200 attorneys. And we all know that is not an easy thing to do. It is like 200 squirrels running on 200 different branches; it is never an easy task. And overseeing more than 50,000 cases. And he continues an active role in improving the lives of all Pennsyl-

vania veterans, serving as a board member for the Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports and giving his time to teach children how to ski.

And, of course, he has proven his dedicated service for the citizens of this Commonwealth by his commitment to the successful operation of the entire unified judicial system.

Justice Castille's lifetime of dedication to service will make him a strong and valuable leader in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Under his leadership the Court will continue to address the challenges that face us today in these changing and very, very, challenging times.

As Alexander Hamilton once said, "The first duty of society is justice." I think Justice Castille lives by that very motto. He has always dutifully sought justice and he will continue to do so, I'm sure, by skillfully ensuring that the administration of justice continues in all courts of this great Commonwealth.

Justice Castille, I want to congratulate you on your achievement as Chief Justice. I'm sure when you were back in law school you never pictured that. But if you did, would you please pick the next Powerball ticket.

I thank you for your continual commitment to the preservation of justice in Pennsylvania, and I wish you much success for many years to come as Chief Justice of this great Court.

Thank you very much.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

I would like to make special note, for the record, of the presence of former Governor Mark Schweiker who is seated to my left beside Mr. Zimmerman, particularly because Governor Schweiker, Governor Ridge, including our current Governor, stood behind the judiciary and supported us at a time when we needed to establish not only an identity and a place, but a functional resource center for the judiciary and I speak of a united center for the courts in the unified judiciary, the Center For the Unified Judiciary, which is now being built in Harrisburg on the hill and will be open as I understand it, April of 2009.

Governor Schweiker played a very large role in continuing that effort and it took three governors and this governor to pull the trigger, so to speak, so the judiciary in Pennsylvania for the first time in its long history being the oldest Supreme Court, has a place where we can hang our hats and perform our administrative functions.

It also houses, as you know, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. So we are indeed indebted for your being here and your support, and Governor Rendell for his support for that project.

We are back on schedule. I have the delightful honor of presenting the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Patrick L. Meehan.

MR. MEEHAN: Chief Justice Cappy, may it please the Court, honored guests, family and friends of Justice Castille, good afternoon.

Chief Justice Emeritus Cappy, let me, on behalf of my many friends in the federal sector, let me commend you for your leadership and distinguished service to our Commonwealth during your time as Chief Justice. And as a citizen of Pennsylvania, let me express to you my thank you for the integrity and dignity with which you conducted yourself and the affairs of this court throughout your tenure.

I'm honored Ron has asked me to speak today, but I have to tell you honestly, this is not the first time Ron has asked me to speak on his behalf.

In fact, I distinctly remember the election night of 1989, when Ron was re-elected as District Attorney and I was one among a small group of people that helped him to share that evening.

Ron started that morning with a case of laryngitis and as the day went through he completely lost his voice.

Victory came in. Just a few moments before we were walking out, Ron took a piece of paper down and he wrote, looking at me, he said, I'll do the waving, but you do the talking.

And I really thought honestly that was the last time that he was ever going to ask me to speak on his behalf because, let's be honest here, that was a blank check and I think for, well, about three years—it took Ron about three years to live down the promises I had made on his behalf.

Of course, in hindsight, I have to say, I really shouldn't have been surprised by the turn of events that day because I never really appreciated how bad laryngitis can be until I started doing grand jury work.

As you look around this room today, you see members of Justice Castille's family and scores of his closest friends, and colleagues, and supporters who I know mean the world to him. These are the people who have been with Ron during the various stretches of the journey that has brought him here today.

However, there's one very special friend of Ron, a Marine, who is not here today, at least not in body, but I believe he has been with Ron every day since March 16, 1967. His name is Angel Mendez.

On that fateful day he was in a rice paddy in Duc Pho when his patrol unit was suddenly caught in an ambush, and his patrol commander was hit by gunfire and the commander fell, unable to move.

I'm just going to draw a few lines from Angel's Navy Cross commendation to capture the essence of the moment. It's such a broader document, but just a few lines. And these are from the document itself:

"Sergeant Mendez raced through a hail of bullets to his platoon commander's side. He picked up the lieutenant and started to carry him to friendly lines. He was shielding the lieutenant with his own body when he was mortally wounded."

The man who Mendez saved, the Honorable Ronald Castille, former District Attorney of Philadelphia, is now one of the seven justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

One life lost and another unalterably changed.

So today as we celebrate the great distinction and achievement of Ron Castille as he becomes the Chief Justice

of the oldest or maybe the second oldest court in our nation's history, I submit that we celebrate, as well, Ron Castille's triumph over great adversity.

His perseverance and determination as he began his long rehabilitation and his courage as he hoisted the spirit of Angel Mendez on his own shoulders and pursued a career of genuine purpose through a different kind of service, to others, to our country.

Ron became a prosecutor and a Philadelphia District Attorney, the only Republican to be elected to city row office in over 30 years. Ron became nationally recognized for his leadership and accomplishments of his office, and clearly, he has risen to the top of his profession.

But strangely, I think it is fitting that we're here again today as we gather in Philadelphia City Hall because this building figures into another period of adversity and all but triumph for Ron.

Again, factored around a sense of duty in public service. For it was a high point, as it was a high point in his personal career, this city was hitting a lower point. And his party came to him and asked that he resign the office and become a candidate for mayor.

It required that Ron walk away from the work that he loved so much, to carry the mantle for others who believed his character and his leadership were needed in the needlest time of the city's history.

Many of the people who were closest to Ron advised him that he not do it. But Ron saw it not as a matter of ambition, but as a matter of responsibility.

Ron lost by the thinnest of margins in a bruising and unexpected three-way primary. So it was, that a proud and ascending career came to an abrupt halt at the doorway of this building.

Now, success in life is often measured not simply by our victories, but by our disappointments and by our ability to recommit to move forward again with purpose.

It reminds me of a young man from Chester County's Lincoln University whose dream of attending law school and his preferences were dashed due to segregation.

Refusing to be defeated by rejection, he pursued civil rights law and he argued Brown v. The Board of Education. He was appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967.

That man, Thurgood Marshall, said, "Sometimes history takes things into its own hands."

Ron Castille, too, refused to be defeated by rejection. He collected himself after his electoral defeat. He joined a law firm and in 1992, because of his reputation and his integrity, his party returned to him again to lead its statewide ticket for Supreme Court.

He sacrificed rewards of a lucrative law practice. He jumped headlong into the rigors of the campaign and this time, as Justice Marshall observed, history took things into its own hands and Ron Castille has been serving our Commonwealth with distinction ever since.

It's where you should be, Ron.

And as you prepare to assume the responsibilities of leadership of the highest court in our Commonwealth, your many friends are proud of your accomplishments and inspired by your commitment to service. And I rather expect that there is another looking down proudly, as well, and if he was here, Angel Mendez would salute a life so admirably lived with the simple words, "Semper Fi, Marine."

Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you so much.

I would like to recognize, for the record, I am going down a dangerous path now, the speaker of the House of Representatives, who hails from Philadelphia, our good friend, Denny O'Brien.

I would like to formally introduce a good friend of all of ours, who's a phenomenal judge in the federal system in the

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Paul Diamond, who, by the way, so you know, served on many of our Supreme Court committees.

Paul.

JUDGE DIAMOND: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court.

My friendship with Ron Castille goes back more than 30 years when we both worked for Governor Rendell, who was then, of course, the Philadelphia District Attorney.

I was an assistant in the appeals division and Ron was an assistant in trial division in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. In those days all homicide appeals were taken, as a matter of right, directly to this court from the various courts of common pleas throughout the State. There was an enormous backlog for these appeals, especially out of Philadelphia. And to reduce that backlog in the summer of 1979, District Attorney Rendell and this Court created what they called the Special Transfer Docket.

Special panels of this court would hear homicide appeals exclusively out of Philadelphia, and then District Attorney Rendell took the then unheard of, really unheard of, measure of calling upon assistants in the trial division to brief and argue these dozens of appeals.

Now, each lawyer in the appeals division was assigned to supervise six or more trial assistants in the preparation of their briefs and their arguments.

Now, you must understand, Members of the Court, that for those of us in appeals, editing a brief of a trial assistant was the appellate equivalent of Hercules cleaning out the Aegean Stables.

Among those trial assistants that I was assigned to work with was Ron Castille.

Now, I would like to say that this was a Herculean undertaking, but it was not. Unlike some of his colleagues, Ron was genuinely interested in doing appellate litigation. His brief, probably the first he had written since law school, was thoughtful and extremely well done. His argument to this

court, made in this courtroom from this podium, was clear and persuasive. This court ruled in Ron's favor.

Now, our Governor said that he found Ron to be a surprise, so did I. I was at something of a loss.

Ron was obviously an exceptionally gifted lawyer, yet he diligently cultivated the opposite image of a tough guy who would read or write only under extreme duress.

And I was determined to learn more about Ron. I learned that Ron attended Auburn University, as you heard, he was a National Merit Scholar, but he also won two additional scholarships. He majored in economics and minored in mathematics

I learned that Ron was selected to be a Member of the National Freshman Honor Society and the National Collegiate Scholarship Fraternity.

I learned that Ron was elected to the student senate and that he edited Auburn's newspaper.

Now, as we heard, after Ron graduated from Auburn, he volunteered to serve in the Marine Corps and in 1967, Ron was grievously injured in Vietnam. He suffered the kind of injury that would cause most men to withdraw from the world and perhaps even to resent it. And Ron embraced it.

With the help of the staff of the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Ron rebuilt his shattered body.

He attended the University of Virginia Law School, again, on full scholarship. 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 their leadership.

Over the next 35 years, as you've heard, Ron served with distinction as an assistant district attorney, district attorney, justice of this court and now Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.

After Ron's election to this Court in 1993, some of Ron's friends wondered how after serving as District Attorney he would take to the more contemplative life of being a Supreme Court Justice.

I knew exactly what Ron would do. When I go to lunch or dinner with Ron he displays the same interest in the law that he did in that summer of 1979.

And so while continuing to cultivate his tough guy image, Ron brings great intelligence and thoughtfulness to his work. He cares deeply for his wonderful wife Susan and his devoted friends and family. He understands, as our Governor said, our best leaders lead by example. I can think of no better example than Ron, a man of seeming contradictions and extraordinary achievements, a man with deep understanding of the essential tragedy of the human condition and the rare courage to persevere.

He is an inspiration to us all and I'm honored to call him my friend.

Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

Again, for a formal introduction for the record, may I introduce to you the Honorable Robert Daniels of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania who is seated to my left. You may know that I am trying to pick off judges to introduce them as I see them. My eyes fail me when we get to the back, I apologize.

If I haven't introduced enough people, any of you who feel they should be introduced, if you wouldn't mind leaving your card with the court reporter to make sure that your name is in the record.

But there is an error of omission. I now have the honor of introducing a dear friend of Ron's and a dear friend of all of ours and mine, former President Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable James Gardner Colins.

JUDGE COLINS: Thank you.

As our sports analyst/governor will tell you, one of the problems with batting seventh or eighth in the lineup, as I am, is that you don't get to choose the pitches that you may want to hit. You have to swing at them all and do what the coaches tell you.

I spent a good bit of time preparing these wonderful remarks, extolling Ron's leadership. I had the statistics by which he won the first DA's race where the democrats had a 500,000 vote registration edge. I had the statistics by which he won the Supreme Court race, which I believe the democrats had a 600,000 vote registration edge.

However, I'm going to have to abandon it because just about all of that has been said, but I will send a copy of my remarks, Ron, to a very close friend, Professor Bruce Ledewitz, and ask that they be made a formal part of the record.

I want to acknowledge and again introduce Ron's mother, Mrs. Marie Nash Castille, without whom none of this would be happening.

The last time I saw Ron's mother was at then Justice Castille's induction to the Supreme Court. Also, that was the last time I saw the Chief Justice's brother, Bob, with whom I once shared a memorable ski week in Vail, Colorado.

At the time of Ron's installation as an associate justice, Bob, I think, was the executive administrator or director of the Broward County Sheriff's Department and he later became the managing director, I believe, of the courts in Dade County, Florida.

Ron's mother was somewhat shocked when my parting words to Ron, her son Bob, and herself was a quote from my favorite George Thurgood song, "Get a haircut and get a real job. Why can't you be like your brother Bob?"

Mr. Chief Justice, I must admit that there is probably no one in this assembly who can now say that you did not get a real job.

Finally, I first met Ron on the ski slopes at Pico Peak, Vermont. Ron was most impressive. In addition to his incredible bravery, obviously, a product of his Cajun background, Ron was also an incredible skier. In fact, he is the fastest skier that I have ever shared the slopes with.

I still have the image of him roaring down the Big Burn at Snowmass with each crutch ski extended parallel to the snow, seemingly flying as if he were a War Eagle, which,

incidentally, is the fight song of his undergraduate alma mater, Auburn University.

After our meeting at Pico Peak, I did not see Ron again until the next summer when I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Senator Specter, in his usual display of genius and good taste, or an incredible error in judgment, had hired Chief Justice Castille and me to become assistant district attorneys commencing in the fall of 1971.

Ron would later take a leave of absence from the Philadelphia District Attorneys Office so that he could volunteer his time to teach disabled Vietnam Veterans to ski so that they should not view themselves as being limited by their sacrifices in support of their country.

As part of my redaction, now, I will go to one final story about Ron and I, because it must be clarified. And there are certain misconceptions and rumors related to our taking the Pennsylvania bar examination. It was not a multi-state exam then, it was two days. It was hard then. You had to really be tough to pass it.

Ron and I attended a law review course on Spruce Street, it was an un-air-conditioned building in July and August. And you would really get nervous and prepped.

Ron and I were roommates at a little rental house on North Pennock Street by the Art Museum as law students—in a neighborhood that now law students can certainly no longer afford to rent.

On the morning of the exam Ron was studying a certain issue and it related to the Mortmain doctrine and the Cy Pres doctrine, which only lawyers would know. I think, it hadn't been around for a while until it was used to, I shall not say break, but perhaps adjust, the Barnes trust in the Barnes Institute.

Mr. Sarner had said there has not been a question on this in the last 16 years in the bar exam, but you may want to study it. So the morning of the exam Ron and our third friend, were sitting there studying—they were studying the Mort-

main and Cy Pres. And I came down with my usual attitude, "never in doubt, but seldom right."

I said, why are you studying that? That hasn't been in the exam in 16 years. You are fools. You are wasting your time.

I was spending my time on something more important the psych rule in Shelly's case or one those other meaningful doctrines.

The second question of the second day, suddenly I get to the question which was leading to the Mortmain doctrine and the Cy Pres. I am sitting there going (indicating), and all of a sudden from several rows up I hear this coughing, as if he had consumption and he was on his death bed. As if he didn't already have my attention, and one thing, he coughed, his left leg jerks up and kicks his crutches out to make even more noise. So as I look at him, and if it wasn't the bar exam I was about to run across the room and pummel him. Ron Castille finally sees me and gives me this (indicating).

Well, Ron got a higher score than I on bar exam by one point and only one point, but he has never allowed me to forget that. And I have been continually abused since then.

In closing, upon speaking of Ron's leadership skills, General Dwight D. Eisenhower used a simple device to illustrate the art of leadership. Laying an ordinary piece of string on the table he'd illustrate how he could easily pull it in any direction. Try to push it though, the General cautioned, and it won't go anywhere. It is just that way when it comes to leading people.

Now Chief Justice Castille has responded to every crisis in his professional life, governmental career, with this type of leadership.

His citation for bravery reads, and excuse me if I get emotional:

"Displaying exceptional leadership at technical skill, Second Lieutenant Castille skillfully deployed his unit to provide support for the beleaguered unit which was pinned down in an open rice paddy. Assigned the mission of extracting the casualties from the battlefield, he quickly organized a recovery

team and unhesitatingly exposed himself to enemy fire while personally leading his men across the fire-swept area."

"Although he sustained a serious leg wound from enemy 50-caliber machine gun fire, Second Lieutenant Castille courageously directed his team to disregard him and complete their mission."

"Only after ensuring that all wounded Marines had been evacuated did he allow himself to be carried from the battle area to a position of relative safety."

I wish to attest to those assembled in this courtroom and to those who will view this event on the Pennsylvania cable network and to all Pennsylvanians that no one is more qualified through temperament, intellect, industry, and courage to lead our Supreme Court, the nation's oldest Supreme Court, through the challenges that will arise as the Court continues its defense of our Commonwealth's and the Nation's adherence to the rule of law as guardians of our Constitution.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

We will now hear from the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, A. Michael Pratt.

MR. PRATT: On behalf of the 13,000 Members of the Philadelphia Bar Associations, I also want to extend our congratulations to Chief Justice Ron Castille. And I'm going to make Chief Justice Emeritus Cappy and some of you happy, I will not even pull out my written remarks. I will be brief.

But first let me also say that we are all so very proud that Chief Justice Castille is a Philadelphian. And he has been a Member of the Philadelphia Bar Association for 37 years.

I have asked our executive director to check the records to make sure that you have been a dues-paying member all these years, but he has been a member.

I will not spend any time talking about what a brilliant district attorney Ronald Castille has been or what a brilliant jurist Justice Castille has been. That has already been said in

many ways. But I want to talk very briefly about Chief Justice Castille as a person from a slightly different angle.

I didn't know Chief Justice Castille when he was District Attorney or during his tenure in private practice. We ran in different political circles. But I have gotten to know him over the last five years and I will tell you that it has been a pleasure getting to know you.

He is a man of humility and integrity and I'm surprised to learn that even he has a sense of humor, although a little dry. And there is never a time that if you are speaking to him that you do not get his undivided attention, whether you are an elected official, a chancellor, or a young lawyer. He even returns his phone calls.

I have seen Justice Castille at many bar association events across this Commonwealth, and he freely shares his wisdom with anyone, any young lawyer, or shares his historical anectdotes and they are always enjoyable.

That is why I know that Chief Justice Castille will never put himself above the citizens of this Commonwealth. He will lead this Supreme Court and make sure that it continues to be fair and continues to follow the rule of law. And he will make us proud.

Chief Justice Castille, we look forward to working with you and we look forward to the leadership and vision that you will provide to the citizens of this Commonwealth.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you, Chancellor Pratt.

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you the President of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Professor Kenneth G. Gormley.

MR. GORMLEY: Mr. Chief Justice, Members of this Honorable Court, Governor Rendell, Judge Rendell, and distinguished guests, my name is Kenneth Gormley and I have the privilege of serving as the President of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

What does one say at the tail end of these speeches about a jurist who's a former lieutenant in the U.S. Marines, recipient of numerous awards for bravery, including two Purple Hearts, former District Attorney of this great city, partner of Reed Smith, Supreme Court Justice extraordinaire.

But when it comes to this jurist, one doesn't say much because at Justice Debra Todd's swearing-in last week he started rating the speakers, kind of like a Russian judge in the Olympics. Everyone loves sports, but it sort of gives you the jitters. Plus, Chief Justice Castille had someone call on Friday and say if this went over exactly three minutes of saying glowing things about him, we would be held in contempt and reconstitute the old Eagle's Court out there in the cloak room. And knowing this guy, he is serious about it.

So let me just say to you today, although it is a bit gloomy outside that this does begin a shining new era for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in this magnificent courtroom, one that will be both exciting and energizing for the entire judicial system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Chief Justice Castille has established himself as a fiercely independent jurist, who knows his mind and speaks it clearly and succinctly, never pussy-footing around tough issues.

You may know the famous lawyer John W. Davis, who argued more cases in the U.S. Supreme Court than any living human being other than Daniel Webster at the time, was famous for one oral argument where he stepped up and told the Court that he wanted to correct a single typo in one footnote and then sat down and won the case.

I'm certainly no John W. Davis, but I have one modest footnote to interject in these proceedings before sitting down. Over the past decade I had the good fortune of working with Chief Justice Castille on a number of projects, mostly dealing with judicial education. He is not only a great jurist with an impressive intellect, but a good man and a good friend.

Mr. Chief Justice, I cannot claim to be an Ex-Marine or decorated war hero, but I do represent a bunch of rabid Pittsburgh Steeler fans, which falls somewhere in that category. So on behalf of 6,600 members of the Allegheny County

Bar Association and the city of champions out west, we salute your strength, your tenacity, your integrity, your leadership and good heart, all which will enure to the benefit of all citizens of this Commonwealth.

The enemy may have given you crutches over there in Vietnam, Mr. Chief Justice, but they certainly didn't steal away your courage or slow you down from the work that you were destined by higher authority to do.

I have three seconds left before being held in contempt. I say congratulations and may God guide your hand.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

I would like to introduce the former Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Colleen Castille.

HON. COLLEEN CASTILLE: Good afternoon, Chief Justice, Justices of the Court, and esteemed guests. My name is Colleen Castille and I am the baby sister of Ron Castille, and I am still referred to as the baby sister of Ron Castille at 48.

Ron asked me to come and speak here and tell a little bit about what I knew of him and, of course, I wanted to speak about the same things that everyone else spoke about, his leadership skills and what he gave to me as a younger sister that enabled me to achieve the things that I've achieved to this day.

And I kept thinking about really important times that we spent together. What I really remembered, Ron, was the many times that you would come home from college, because those are about the first memories that I have, and we lived in those lovely little subdivisions in the early sixties that everybody was moving into, and we had long great grass lawns, and we had many new neighbors.

And, unfortunately, in our neighborhood we had so many girls it was crazy. And my mother was always the greatest host and always made sure that we had cookies and punch at my house, and so we spent a lot of time at my house.

And when Ron would come home what he would do with us, and this is the light-hearted part of him, that he would swing every single one of us in the yard by our arms and our legs until we were dizzy and we couldn't stand up. And there were eight of us. I mean, there were eight of us girls and he would do it hour after hour and day after day. And so every time Ron would drive up in whatever unique car he had at that time, an MG, a Lincoln that had the cool doors that opened out like this, we remembered that it would be Ron and we would all come running out of the house. Swing me Ron, swing me. Swing me. And screaming and crying.

He was like—he was our idol. He was our rock star. And he continued to be a rock star for me in my life.

But I remember the day—I remember the day that he got out of the car and he only had one leg and he couldn't swing us anymore. And I thought our lives would change and our relationship would change. Excuse me. But it didn't. He continued to be the strength of our family. He continued to be the leader who developed leadership in every single one of his sisters and brother and his cousins.

He was a man of quiet determination. A man who didn't, you know, announce for four years in a row while he was in high school that he was going to go to college. He didn't announce continually that he was going to be the first one to join the Marines and to fight for the freedoms of our country.

He didn't, for years, build his career as assistant district attorney telling everyone that one day he was going to run for DA. He didn't run for DA and operate that office as though it was a stepping stone to a higher office. He didn't apply to that office. He was committed to that office.

Again, when he ran for mayor he was committed to being mayor. Again he ran for Supreme Court Justice and it was not that he was on a higher stepping stone to something higher, he was committed to giving justice to the people of Pennsylvania. And again, he didn't take that position with the eye toward the Chief Justice.

And each time, each time things sometimes worked out for him and sometimes didn't. But for Ron Castille there is a

Japanese saying that embodies his life, "Fall down seven times and get up eight."

And that is my brother in a nutshell.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Ron's brother, Robert Castille.

MR. ROBERT CASTILLE: If it pleases the Justices, present, future and past, I would like to just address my brother one-on-one and say a few things to him in front of this esteemed group.

I'm certainly honored to be here surrounded by family, friends, colleagues, public officials of all sorts, even including His Eminence, the Cardinal. This is the first time I ever met a Cardinal, besides a baseball player. It is a pleasure.

And I would also like to speak on behalf of our family, my mother, who you have already met, my sister who you've already met, my other sister, Cathy, who flew up from Florida with us, as well as Susan, Ron's lovely wife.

Susan's family, her father, Charles Kilgus, who is with us, as well as Denise McBride, Peggy and Nick LaForgia, her other sister, Jackie and Jack Aspen, her brother-in-law.

And just tell you that all of us are really proud of you, Ron, and we are happy to be here in front of this esteemed group and have that opportunity to hear about your life, not that we don't know it, but to hear it over and over again, some of the things, the stories that heroes are made of.

I think that we are all here to witness and celebrate the achievements of a son, of a brother, of a friend, or a colleague who is about to realize the culmination of his dreams by becoming the Chief Justice, or actually, he already is the Chief Justice, but we are going to be part of that actual collaring and it is not a police collaring, right?

But there are a couple things to be thankful for. I am going to keep this short. I was warming the bench for Judge Colins, Judge Colins, it could be Justice Colins, but I know

there are several things to be thankful for and one is your family and what you get from your family.

I think in our family there was a commitment to government service, to public service.

Ron's almost 40 years in the military and city government and state government was preceded by my father, Major Henry Castille, Retired, U.S. Air Force. He spent a total of 47 years in service to this country in the military on a national level.

Now, of course, Ron is going to probably tie him or break that record, as he has done so many times with the other things that he's done.

And I would also like to say that there is something that is always very, very prevalent in our family and that is persistence.

My mother, who raised five of us to try to be normal kids without the assistance of my father for the most part, he was gone a majority of the time in the military, she did a great job and she has such tremendous persistence. That has paid off in Ron and his persistence to overcome whatever odds are placed in front of him. And as formidable as they may be, they are never formidable enough that he cannot break through the barriers, which he has always done.

I would also like to, on behalf of our family, thank all of you that are here in recognition of Ron. The family, the friends, the colleagues, the fellow Members of the Bench. Family and friends are what life is all about in the end. And recognizing Ron on the bench here, and your tributes to him one after another, it is heartwarming on our behalf, and even listening to my little sister, baby sister, actually, so it is a wonderful thing.

And I want to thank all of you who have come from places as far away as California, Arizona, other places, just to be here, New York on the trains. Whatever got you here in this inclement weather just to spend some time honoring my brother, Ron.

I know one of his friends just flew over the Atlantic from Milan, Italy, so that would be a tough one to give up for this, but Sheryl is here so we'll see her a little bit later.

Thank you all for the time that you have spent providing Ron with your friendship, with your guidance, with your family dealings towards him in our absence. Everybody believes Ron is really from Philadelphia, as the Mayor said, and for the most part he is.

Also talking about that, thanks to the City of Philadelphia because when Ron came back from Vietnam in 1967, at the U.S. Naval Hospital, no one really knew what was going to happen. And the City of Philadelphia, truly the City of Brotherly Love, embodied, took Ron into their womb and brought him back and gave him an opportunity to do the things that he has done now.

So to all of the citizens of the City of Philadelphia, I want to thank you for recognizing Ron when he chose, against all odds, to run for the DA. When he chose, against all odds, to run for the mayor.

And then, I would also like to thank the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. When Ron lost the Mayor's election and went into private practice with Reed Smith for a while, I just knew that that was not him. And he decided, on his own, just like he did when he ran for DA, he was going to get another Ford Explorer, put some billboards on it and start going around the state from Tinicum to all the way west to Pittsburgh, driving around the state, 100,000 miles, just to become a Justice on this esteemed Supreme Court. And now 14 years later, we're about to see you become the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

So thank you to the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for your astute observations and for your vote on behalf of my brother.

In the end, I would like to say one more thing. As a child growing up with a brother, everybody wants to have a role model. My father was very close to us, but gone a lot so my older brother, with four younger sisters and one brother, took on the responsibility of providing us with the role model.

And for over 50 years now Ron has been my role model, my hero.

Even when Judge Colins told me to get a job, which I did, I left government, Ron didn't, but he has a real job now.

I still think 50 years later, as I look up to this bench, you are my hero, my role model, and I thank you for everything you've done as my brother. And I wish you tremendous success on the bench and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Well, thank all of you. That is a very successful navigation through 11 speakers and we appreciate very much how well you all kept to the timeline.

We will now administer the Oath to Chief Justice Castille and I will ask the family to come forward, please.

Assisting in the Oath will be Marie Castille and Susan Castille and with, the robing, which is really the placement of the collar, Kathy Castille Henley, Robert Castille and Colleen Castille.

Would you please rise.

Would you raise your right hand, and repeat after me: I do solemnly swear.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I do solemnly swear.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: That I will support, obey, and defend.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: That I will support, obey, and defend.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: The Constitution of the United States.

JUSTICE CASTILLE: The Constitution of the United States.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

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JUSTICE CASTILLE: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUSTICE CASTILLE: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: With fidelity.

JUSTICE CASTILLE: With fidelity.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: So help me, God.

JUSTICE CASTILLE: So help me, God.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Congratulations.

You will now hear from the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you, Chief Justice Cappy. And thank everyone here today.

Everyone here is a special friend, a special supporter. And I really couldn't have gotten here without you, what you have done for me over the many years that I've been in public service.

I have something I would like to say which is hopefully the last speech I will ever have to give in my life. So far it is the most important speech I think I will give in my life.

But we in the judiciary, we don't wield the power of the purse, the power of the tax, or the power to legislate. We control no army, nor any police force, nor the governing power like the executive branch.

We only dispense justice. And any power that we have derives from that same beneficence as directed by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While we are dependent upon the other branches of government, we are not subservient to those branches. As an equal branch, our true power derives from the moral authority arising out of our jurisprudential decisions.

We command only by the force of this moral authority and that force is clearly derived from the citizens' support for the rule of law and from those elected and appointed leaders who believe in the rule of law.

The Supreme Court is neither a Democratic court, it is not a Republican court. Of course, the Supreme Court Justices are elected, but we are not elected to serve the parties under whose banner we ran. We are not elected to serve any particular constituency or any particular geographic region of Pennsylvania. We are simply elected to serve a higher calling and that calling is justice.

This court is here to serve all of the citizens of the Commonwealth, to dispense fair and impartial justice for all; justice for the most favored member of society, and even justice for the most hated and despised in our society.

On these occasions I like to take a brief moment to remember the service to our Nation of the men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation's military services and who go into harm's way in order to preserve the liberties that we sometimes take for granted.

Even as we sit in this historic courtroom, American men and more often women are serving in far-flung, hostile, dysfunctional, and failed states, much as I served in 1967 in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam.

While some may disagree with our involvement in some of these hostilities, or all of them, we must still honor those Americans who serve today in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, for they are the very forces who protect our liberties and ensure our nation's security, even to the point of sacrifice of life and limb. We owe them all a debt of gratitude as a nation.

I remember on these occasions, my father, a Captain of a B-17 bomber in raids over Germany in World War II, and then flying C119 troop transports during the Korean conflict, and then went on to serve for 50 years in the United States Air Force.

I will always remember my Platoon Sergeant, Angel Mendez what he did that day in operation DESOTO in Duc Pho. Angel saved my life on that day in that rice paddy, but he himself was mortally wounded. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest medal award to the Marine Corps for personal bravery.

New York Senator, Charles Schumer, is now leading an effort to upgrade Angel's Navy Cross to the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor.

On these occasions I remember my fellow Second Lieutenants from Basic School in Quantico whose names are now etched on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. To some extent, I live my life for them, and my accomplishments are their accomplishments.

The courts of our nation and, indeed, the Courts of Pennsylvania have been and are still now under a withering attack by misguided individuals who wish to undermine, and in some instances, eliminate the independence of the judicial branch.

In the last election cycle in Pennsylvania we saw organized efforts to vote out from the judiciary 67 judges standing for retention election. Those judges had 700 years of combined judicial experience. Had this effort succeeded, the effect on the judicial system would have been disastrous. Moreover, these judges had done nothing to merit a "no" vote.

This misguided effort was simply designed to punish these 67 hard-working judges for what these groups perceived as malfeasance by the legislative branch of government.

Thankfully, the men and women of the organized bar of Pennsylvania were quick to perceive this threat to judicial independence, as were many other concerned citizens of Pennsylvania.

Because of intensive efforts taken to counter this attack, the voters of Pennsylvania were educated about the meaning and the importance of the constitutionally mandated retention election process for the judiciary.

The result was that no judge was defeated in a retention election as a direct result of these attacks by these citizens.

The organized bar is to be commended for its role in countering this unprecedented attack upon the judiciary and defeating it.

And I especially want to recognize four individuals who were extremely important in this cause. Andy Susko from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Ken Horoho from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Jane Dalton from the Philadelphia Bar Association, and Professor Ken Gormley from the Allegheny County Bar Association.

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of judicial independence.

When I was sworn in, in this very courtroom 14 years ago, it was a time of turmoil for the Supreme Court with the impending impeachment of one Justice and reckless public attacks leveled by that Justice against two other Members of this Court, attacks later determined to be unfounded.

I've always thought at that time that I would not want to serve a second term on the Supreme Court if the same situation prevailed ten years later.

Fortunately, that did not come to be. In those ten years, and even continuing to this very day, the Supreme Court under the leadership of the four Chief Justices I've served with, has become, and continues to be, one of the most respected Supreme Courts in our nation.

Since that time this Court has undertaken innovative efforts, computerizing the entire judicial system linking all related justice agencies in a common electronic communication system.

We have implemented rule reforms, to speed the efficiency of the Court's day-to-day operations, programs that deal more effectively with juveniles, with adoptions, and with placements. Jury reform. Innerbranch governmental cooperation. Efforts to eliminate prejudice of all types from the judicial system. Bar admission reform. Funding for indigent legal services. Specialized treatment.

There are many, many other progressive reforms and innovative programs, too numerous to mention, implemented under the Chief Justices I've served with, all of which have combined to make the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania more efficient and more effective in delivering justice to all the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Chief Justice Nix will be remembered for his dignity and his leadership on the national level. Chief Justice Flaherty is known for his judicial education programs. Chief Justice Zappala is credited with judicial computerization. And Chief Justice Cappy will be noted for his many creative programs addressing process within the unified court system.

All of this was in addition to the nuts-and-bolts business of deciding cases in a timely, reasonable fashion and at the same time supervising the Unified Judicial System.

So this Court has progressed dramatically in the last 14 years thanks to all the hard work of all of our Chief Justices and the work of all the Justices who I have served with while I've been on the Supreme Court.

The excellence of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has been recognized on a national level just recently. Chief Justice Cappy was awarded the Carrico Award as the nation's outstanding chief justice by the National Conference of Chief Justices.

In accepting this award, Chief Justice Cappy graciously acknowledged that the award reflected not just his leadership, but the award was also a reflection of the behind-the-scenes efforts and the dedication of all the Justices of the Supreme Court. And we thank you for that, Chief.

But I must take a moment, again, to salute Chief Justice Ralph Cappy for his long service to the judicial system of Pennsylvania, over 30 years. First, as Public Defender and then as a Common Pleas Court judge in Allegheny County, and 18 years on the highest court of the Commonwealth.

His record is a record for which he should justifiably be proud. Ralph Cappy has been our Chief for the last five years and I speak not only for myself, but for all the Justices and

former Justices with whom you have served, Ralph, it has been an honor to work with you as a colleague, but is a greater honor to have you as a friend.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We wish you and your lovely wife, Janet, nothing but success in your future endeavors. We will somehow try to muddle through without you.

Despite the recent negativity, Ralph, your service in the Commonwealth and to the judicial branch will be long remembered for its excellence and duly appreciated by all three branches of government and, indeed, by all the citizens of Pennsylvania.

I'm sure there will be many challenges yet unforeseen facing the judicial system of Pennsylvania. Under my watch as Chief Justice and with the invaluable assistance of my learned fellow Justices, Tom Saylor, Mike Eakin, Max Baer, and with the help of our newest Justices, Justice Debra Todd and Justice Seamus McCaffery, and for all those Justices who join us in the future, I'm certain that this Court can meet those challenges.

Our Court will continue to press reforms instituted in recent years. We will build upon our collective experience of the past in order to forge a spirit of cooperation and collegiality with our two new Justices and with the other Justices, future Justices appointed to this Court, or elected to this Court.

This Court will continue to fight vigorously for the independence of the judicial branch. We will pass upon disputes that come before us by faithfully applying the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the Commonwealth and the laws that govern our society.

We will be known as a conservative court, only where the law we are interpreting is conservative. We will be known as a liberal court, only where the law we are interpreting is liberal. We will be known as an activist court, only where justice cries out for intervention by this Court. But above all else, I would like this Court to be known as one that decides cases knowl-

edgeably and one that decides matters that come within our purview fairly and impartially.

I recently reviewed my induction speech delivered 14 years ago in this very courtroom, I was looking for quotes by learned individuals, theologians, et cetera. But I found a quote that I gave 14 years ago. I said at that time upon my induction:

"I will work 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 Pennsylvania, an institution that our citizens can have confidence in, that they will know that even though they may never come before this Court, that if they do or should they ever have to, justice will be done to their cause."

And today I renew that vow.

As I prepare to take the helm of this Court by effect of the constitutional mandate, I ask for the assistance of my fellow Justices. I ask for the assistance of all Pennsylvanians and I especially ask for your prayers.

And when my time comes to relinquish the office of Chief Justice to my successor, I can only fervently hope that it will be said that this Court continued to improve and to advance the cause of justice for all the citizens of Pennsylvania.

I thank my lovely wife, Susan, for her support over the many years I have been involved in professional life. I thank my staff who are in the room, for their hard work. I thank my family for their love and support as we lived a very hectic life of a military family transferring from base, to base, to base. And especially to my mom, Marie, who was responsible alone for dragging her four children half way around the world to Itazuke Air Force Base in Fukuoka, Japan and back. She took four kids over and brought five back.

I thank all of you who are here today and I thank those who could not be here and I thank those who are no longer here for their support over the many years of my professional life. That support allowed me today to assume the position of

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. I am truly honored by your friendship and your support.

I spent most of my professional life in public service. I served my Nation in the United States Marine Corps. I served the citizens of Philadelphia for nearly 20 years in the District Attorney's office in Philadelphia. I have served the citizens of the Commonwealth for the last 14 years as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. As I continue my public service in my new role as Chief Justice, I am extremely grateful for what has been bestowed upon me and I'm humbled by the magnitude of the task before me.

I thank each and every one of you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you.

We have a tradition in this Court and we are conscious of the hour.

My colleagues have assured me that they will be succinct and brief in their remarks. So in order of reverse seniority, I would like to introduce you our new Justice, Seamus McCaffery, for a brief remark.

JUSTICE McCAFFERY: Chief and newly installed Chief Justice Ron Castille, as I start off my tenure on this incredibly wonderful Court, I find it no greater an honor to serve under your leadership.

You and I have spent many, many years celebrating the birth of our Corps together, when I go back to when I was a police officer and you were an ADA. I am humbled to be on this Court, number one, and even more so humbled to be here serving alongside of you.

I congratulate you. I cannot be more excited for you. And as they say in our military, "I have your six."

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Justice Debra Todd.

JUSTICE TODD: Thank you Chief Justice Cappy. Let me just, if I may say a few words of thanks to you, Chief Justice Cappy, for your leadership on our Supreme Court and

of our Unified Judicial System here in Pennsylvania. It has been an inspiration to all of us. I looked so forward to serving under you and after I won the primary, you promptly announced your retirement. I hope it had nothing to do with my coming on.

We, in fact, are serving one day here together so I appreciate your guidance and your leadership and I congratulate you on your years of tremendous service to the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Castille, I'm so excited to be serving with you. I don't know you as well as I knew Justice Cappy. I'm looking forward to getting to know you.

I really only admired you from afar, from reading your opinions and from knowing your history and your record of courage and leadership is truly inspirational. I can't tell you how excited I am about serving under you on this Supreme Court.

I have discovered that you have very dry wit and I'm struggling to determine when you are telling me something in all seriousness and when you are using your sense of humor. So if you threaten to hold me in contempt or anything like that, I am hoping it is your sense of humor.

Congratulations to you and God bless you on this tremendous undertaking.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Justice Max Baer.

JUSTICE BAER: Ron, the Governor in his remarks said that you are going to take this Court places that it has never been. I vote for Key West.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Granted.

JUSTICE BAER: I saw during these moving proceedings tears out there. And I unabashedly tell you that my eyes were moist and I controlled that the best I could.

Sometimes I think that everything has been said and there is not much that could be added to it and I think today is one of those days.

I have been on this Court for four years. I have been very blessed to be led by our own Abbott and Costello. I leave to you which is the straight man.

And I've had great mentors, but these two as mentors to me over the last four years have been phenomenal. And to the extent that I have gotten through the learning curve, Ralph, Ron, thank you.

Those of us who have been on this Court, including those in front of us, have a unique perspective. We actually see what is going on inside that room behind those doors in the Court. And I will tell you that Ron said it all. What you read is not what you get. What you heard is what you get.

A Court under Ralph Cappy and a Court under Ron Castille, and they have been a partnership. The senior Justices are partners on this administration. It does nothing more than apply law to the facts and does the best it can in the extraordinarily serious job of deciding cases correctly in accordance with the law and in accordance with what we hope is good policy.

So, Ralph, thank you, thank you, for being a great friend and great mentor.

And, Ron, thank you. And I assure you, Ron is an activist in his position; many a phone call when I made a mistake, and thank you. And many a time when you crossed the bench right on his crutches to whisper in my ear when I was making a mistake, and thank you. You can hear him galloping across.

And I look forward more than I can tell you to continuing to be a member of what for the last four years has been a great Court, and what, as we go to Key West and beyond, but it is going to remain a great Court.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Justice Michael Eakin.

JUSTICE EAKIN: Chief, I don't think I've seen this many people in this room since we heard the appeals of the award of gambling licenses. Probably a third of them were protesters. I take it the percentage is lower today.

It is said you can learn more by playing a round of golf with someone in those 18 holes than you can in years of acquaintance, about the character of someone. And I have had the good fortune to have played golf with Ron since we were District Attorneys back in the eighties. And I wanted to relate two brief stories.

The first being a couple summers ago when we were fortunate enough to be invited to a course across the bridge in Clementon, which is a top course, but a very tough course laden with sadistic traps, sand, and it was a brutally hot summer day, and I see another member of our foursome over there. But at the end of the round I was hot and tired and it wasn't Ron's best day on the course, but as we sat by the caddy shack just riding back from the 18th green, the caddy master came out and said, "How was it out there today, guys?"

And Ron said, "The course brought me to my knee."

Now, if you see Ron on the course, that's impressive. And it is impossible not to have great, great respect for him. If you just see the act, but if you see the attitude that comes with it, it is something else that tells you much about the character of the man.

Which leads me to my second story.

A couple of years ago we were sitting in Pittsburgh, and for reasons I don't recall, the list folded early and then Chief Justice Cappy said to Ron and I, "Do you want to go out and play today? We are done. It is only lunchtime. We can get 18 in."

And he arranged for us to go out and we played, and for reasons that I won't go into, but I have my excuses, but at the end of the day Ron beat me. And \$4 exchanged hands, flowing in his direction. And I was chagrined about this.

The next day I'm checking out of the William Penn and as I handed my key to the desk clerk, the clerk said, "How was your stay, Justice?"

I said, "Wonderful, as always."

"I hear Justice Castille beat you yesterday."

"Well, yes, he did."

The bellman took my bag and we headed for the front door. "I heard a one-legged golfer beat you yesterday."

We got out front, Frank, the doorman, "I heard a cripple kicked your butt yesterday."

I don't know what it cost him, he greased everybody in the hotel. But if he can turn my four bucks into that, I think the finances of the Court will be in good hands.

It is true that you have great respect for Ron if you see him do any of the things that he does. But the respect I have for Ron comes from what he does, as Max said, behind closed doors.

What he just announced as the standard for the Court is what he believes. It is what he has lived. And it is what causes me to respect him.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Justice Thomas Saylor.

JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, Chief.

I've known Ron for almost 25 years, dating back to my service with Attorney General Roy Zimmerman and Ron was District Attorney in Philadelphia, but we really came to know each other during 1993, when Ron and I spent a year of our lives together campaigning for judicial office throughout this great Commonwealth. Ron to the Supreme Court and myself for the Superior Court.

Fortunately, we were both successful that year and Ron went on to this court and I was privileged to join Ron on the Supreme Court in 1997, and to have served with him during these past ten years.

He has been a steadfast colleague and a friend and a vigorous defender of judicial independence.

Ron, it will be my continued privilege to work with you in your new role as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS CAPPY: Thank you. Tom.

Well, it is left to me to bat cleanup and everything that has been said has been said as Jim noted in his remarks.

I first would like to welcome Seamus McCaffery and Debra Todd to the Court. I was unfortunately unable to attend their swearings-in and our First Lady knows, at least in one instance, I was on assignment out of State and I welcome you. I know you have been welcomed formally. You are in for the ride of your life.

I've learned much in the 18 years that I've served on this Court. One thing that I was reminded of today was nothing happens in Philadelphia, nor the State of Pennsylvania that doesn't go through the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia. It just seems that everyone who is anyone in this State and in this town somehow, sometime worked with the Office of the Philadelphia District Attorney.

It is a marvel for us, mid-westerners out there in Pittsburgh. And it seems to be a terrific training for the future leaders in our State.

I should mention to all of you that on one of my motorcycle trips through the Bayou, I think it was just outside of Baton Rouge, there is a wooden framed house called the Castille House. And for those of you who know Ron well, he is of Cajun upbringing. Somewhere in these travels, I called and asked him about it. He claimed ownership of that house.

The nice thing that will occur with Ron being Chief Justice Castille is that sometime in the future when he elects to retire, he will be among these portraits that you see hanging in this room.

Our tradition on this Court is for the Chief Justice to have an oil painting made and hung in the courtroom in the district in which the Chief Justice lives. And Ron will eventually be on this wall. Everybody moves around. This guy, whoever he is, goes.

I should note for you that we do have the formal commission signed by Governor Rendell. Ron was kind enough to spare us the reading of the commission, but I assure you it is

properly signed, sealed, and dated January 7, 2008. So it is official.

Lastly, I would like to seriously, and from the bottom of my heart, thank Ron and Susan for having invited me to preside over these proceedings.

It has been a joy getting to know all of our former Justices seated before us, all this fine group of people. I'm sorry I will not get to serve with Seamus and Debra as new Justices on this Court.

It is an extremely moving experience to serve on the court of last resort in any jurisdiction. I know most of the Chief Justices, as Ron will come to know, that serve in the United States. And to a person they have the same commitments that we have, to render decisions in accordance with the rule of law. But what many of them lack is this wonderful collegiality and sense of humor that has been demonstrated this afternoon. I'm sure it was demonstrated in swearings-in and is a part of our fabric here on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

That does not mean that this Court doesn't take itself very seriously and the Members of Court are committed to the core function of the Court in deciding of cases. But, what it has meant for quite some time now, is that we can conduct ourselves in a collegiate manner and we can all be leaders while at the same time all share the awesome responsibilities of final adjudication.

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania. You now understand, I think, why among the many factors that weighed in with my decision to retire from the Court effective January 6, one factor has to be, by any responsible person, whether the succession will occur in a fashion which is acceptable, first, to you as a person and acceptable to the profession at large.

I hope that all of you and all of those watching or who will watch on our State cable network, now know that my decision was made quite a bit easier in having come to know Ron, not only as a professional, but as a good friend over these last 14 years.

I leave this Court in the hands of an awesome person, a person who can lead this Court as has been mentioned time and time again and who will lead this Court, as the Governor said, to unparalleled successes.

So I leave with peace of mind and I have enjoyed the experience and I am respectful of it.

I should mention in closing that when I took Ron into my confidence way back in September, we have been transitioning since September—well, Ron and I have been transitioning since late August. After my announcement in September, I think it was, I sat down with him and said, Ron, I've decided to retire from the Court.

And he looked at me with those steely-blue Marine Corps eyes and he said, "Good. Gets rid of some of the riffraff."

When you are dealing with someone that you respect as I respect Ron Castille, and Susan and we have come to know each other over these last few years, I leave with a great peace of mind and great confidence that this Court will, in fact, continue to be a wonderful institution for every citizen in Pennsylvania.

So I said this before and in an effort not to be redundant, you never know what life brings.

For the last time, I will adjourn the Court.

Thank you all for being here.

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