

After thirteen years as a trial judge, Judge Ervin was sworn in on May 25, 1980 as a judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States. When he was elevated to the chief judgeship of the Fourth Circuit in 1989, he became only the second North Carolinian to occupy this important position. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, Jr. once described Judge Ervin as "the very model of what a judge, especially the presiding judge of a great court, should be."

Judge Ervin left his mark in hundreds of decisions. He always was fair and principled. He approached cases with a deep understanding of the law, but never forgetting the common sense he developed growing up in Morganton. Just last year, he participated in two important decisions affecting elections in North Carolina. In the middle of the election year, the district court issued an opinion striking down North Carolina's campaign finance statute. Judge Ervin issued a stay on the decision until the election season ended to prevent the election from devolving into confusion. Similarly, he participated in a decision to keep the primary election on May 5, 1998 for all offices except for the U.S. House, which was subject to a redistricting lawsuit, to minimize disruption for the other candidates and the electorate.

Judge Ervin had the courage to stand up for his beliefs, which he always did in his typical gracious manner. In February 1997, as a witness in a congressional hearing about proposed legislation to reduce the number of judgeships on the Fourth Circuit, he politely took issue with the Chairman of the hearing. He believed that the court's ability to render swift and certain justice would be enhanced by the filling of two long vacant positions, not by eliminating them. He stated that the degree of delegation by circuit court judges was greater than ideal and that he would like to be able to devote greater personal attention to the matters that came before him.

Because he was such a remarkable person and a dedicated jurist, he earned the lifelong admiration of dozens of young people who clerked for him over the years. He also earned the respect of his peers in the legal profession, as well as many honors over the years. Just this year, the North Carolina Bar Association accorded him its Liberty Bell Award for "strengthening the American system of freedom under law" and the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers presented him its Outstanding Appellate Judge Award.

The Judge cherished his family, which is nothing they do not already know. What he knew about the important, everlasting things in life, he said that he learned from his parents, his wife Elisabeth, his two sons, Jim and Robert, and his two daughters, Betsy and Margaret. I send my heartfelt condolences to Elisabeth and their children. Please know that you are in my prayers.

In his commencement speech at Campbell University this past spring, he told the graduates, "[I]f you seek truth, if you keep faith, and have courage, life will release you from the little things and give you peace of mind and heart." Judge Ervin left this world released of the little things with peace of mind and peace of heart because throughout his life, he never stopped searching for truth, he kept faith in God, and he repeatedly demonstrated courage.●

TRIBUTE TO AMY ISAACS

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Amy Isaacs' association with Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), the nation's oldest independent liberal advocacy organization dedicated to individual liberty and building economic and social justice at home and abroad.

Ms. Isaacs has been a driving force within the organization, shaping its agenda for three decades, working on a broad range of issues affecting domestic, foreign, economic, social and environmental policy. She began her career at ADA as an intern in 1969 and has moved up through the ranks serving as Director of Organization, Executive Assistant to the Director, Deputy National Director and currently, as ADA National Director. On the domestic front, she has focused the organization's attention on such pressing issues as preserving social security, fighting for full civil rights and quality health care for all, and working to pass campaign finance reform legislation.

Throughout her life Ms. Isaacs has worked tirelessly at home and abroad to raise awareness of the injustice of all forms of discrimination. She is a graduate of the American University in Washington, DC, attended classes at the University of Cologne in Germany and was a delegate to the Young Leaders Conference for the American Council on Germany. She also served as a member to a bipartisan observer delegation to the Liberal International Party Congress in Stockholm, Sweden.

Ms. Isaacs has been a true champion for social and economic justice. Pursuing these ideals comes as naturally to Amy as breathing. She is a gifted and wonderfully compassionate and committed human being and I am pleased to congratulate her on her thirty years of service to the ADA.●

THE MARRIAGE OF PATRICK JOHN MCGONIGLE AND JENNIFER BRAVO

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to note briefly the union of two talented and beloved people, Mr. Patrick John McGonigle and Miss Jennifer Bravo. On this Saturday past, following a nine-year courtship begun at their alma mater, Saint Louis University, the couple were wed in resplendent fashion among friends and family in New Orleans.

Mr. President, over my twenty-three years in the United States Senate, it has become increasingly acceptable to decry the loss of virtue in our young—to suggest that television, popular culture, et al., have conspired and, indeed, triumphed over American values. Anyone who knows Patrick and Jennifer and their loving families or fortunate enough to attend their beautiful ceremony would surely dispute such a view.

Mr. President, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the newlyweds and wish them the greatest luck as they embark this most cherished journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK WARNER

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Warner, the former Chairman and CEO of Gulf States Paper Corporation. I recognize him for the contributions that he and his wife, Elizabeth, have made to Tuscaloosa and the surrounding community.

A man of strong character and a wealth of old-fashioned common sense, Jack Warner has persevered and triumphed no matter what the challenge; through wars, labor strikes, and tough financial and personal circumstances. Through it all, he has remained steadfast in his beliefs and a pioneer from which others might draw inspiration. He has made tough business decisions over the years, and through it all has kept Gulf States Paper privately owned, a challenging endeavor when so many other companies have felt the pressure to go public. His gritty determination has led to financial success, which has helped him to pursue his many philanthropic interests and also allowed him to give back to the Tuscaloosa community.

It was through many obstacles and achievements that Jack Warner developed the strong character and firm convictions that are with him today. A graduate of Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana in 1936, he moved on to college at Washington & Lee University to pursue a degree in business administration. Following graduation, he promptly enlisted in the U.S. Army to perform what he saw as his duty to serve the country. As a commissioned officer with the Mars Task Force in the Burma theater of operations, he served the United States in exemplary fashion. Assigned in the Army's last horse-mounted unit, his calvary outfit was sent to India to pack supplies along the Burma trail. Once there, Jack Warner's unit was confronted with difficulties and obstacles which would have taken the spirit out of most men. Jack persevered, however, and his regiment ended up making a significant contribution to the War effort. This short episode in the life of Mr. Warner encapsulates his great spirit and will. He has always demonstrated persistence through adversity, and a commitment to get the job done right.

Perhaps it is this quality which has led to the astonishing success of Jack