Tribute to Frank Collins

HON. DON SHERWOOD
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my predeces sor in Congress, former Representative Joseph M. McDade, who served in the House for 36 years, has informed me of the passing on February 18 of Frank Collins, a prominent attorney from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and former Scranton native.

Mr. Collins graduated in 1948 from Scranton Preparatory School, where he was a classmate of Congressman McDade. Collins attended St. Francis College and graduated in 1952 from the University of Scranton. He later received his Jurist Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955.

Collins worked for several banks during his distinguished legal career and most recently worked at the law firm of Collins, Johnson and Markey in Media, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Katharine, and seven children and six grandchildren.

Those who knew Collins best pay high tribute to his intellect, integrity and character. Congressman McDade said of Collins, “His life is a testament to the joy of intellectual pursuit and the use of the Socratic method to attain dependable decisions. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his lovely wife, Katie, and their children.”

In a moving and eloquent memorial delivered by a fellow attorney and close personal friend, Henry B. FitzPatrick, Collins was remembered for his many friendships, sense of humor, athletic achievements in basketball and golf, enduring and loving marriage, and professional and personal integrity.

“Frank Collins chose to be a lawyer,” FitzPatrick eulogized. “It doesn’t take long until that profession separates the upright from the rest. It asks questions which can only be answered by those who are serious about being honest, those who can interrogate the depth of their soul to see if there is further will to be summoned for the finding of the right answer. Frank had that quality of honesty—otherwise he would not have had the trust, as he did, of clients and fellow attorneys.”

“But, we all know that professional honesty might not accompany a person home. The fearlessly scrupulous judge or lawyer might with wife or husband be disingenuous and deceitful; few of us are honest all of the time; Frank Collins was one of that few. He was unable to put a knife in the crack between the levels of integrity demanded of him in his personal and professional lives. For there was no crack, but only the seamless cloth of honesty.”

Those are high words of praise for a truly remarkable individual. Congressman McDade for bringing the exemplary life on Frank Collins to my attention so that I could bring it to the attention of my colleagues.