



Eloquent tributes to the memory of the late Edward C. Harrison were paid recently in the courtroom of Superior Judge Frank H. Dunne.

John L. McNab, in officially informing the court of Harrison's demise, said:

If your Honor please, it is a very beautiful custom observed by our profession to pay tribute to a member of the bar who has departed this life.

I am calling officially to your Honors attention the death of Mr. Edward C. Harrison, who has been laid to sleep his long sleep. He has been one of the most honored and respected members of this bar for a great many years. He was one whom we younger members of the profession looked up to as a gentleman of the older school, one of those tender, generous, lovable characters, whose word everywhere might be taken and accepted by the court and bar and be relied upon. He has been one of the leading practitioners in the Probate Court of this state for several decades; he was an expert in the formulating of court decrees and findings relative to probate of estates. I know nothing could make a man happier in this life to leave behind him children who follow in his footsteps. It was one of the comforting things in the advancing years of Mr. Harrison's life that he left behind him two noble and able sons, and comforted his life by following his own profession and becoming distinguished members of that profession, and daughter treading the same path.

And now that he has ceased to become active in the affairs of this court,,,,, I respectfully move your Honor, as a tribute of respect, that when this court adjourns, it do so out of respect of memory of Edward C. Harrison.

No lawyer ever stood before your Honor or any other member of the judiciary in this city whose character was higher, whose temper was sweeter, and whose word was more to be relied upon than his. He was one to whom we might look up as an exemplar, who has made the legal profession what it always ought to be, one of dignity and strength and character in the community.

Therefore, on behalf of the bar of San Francisco, whose servant I am your Honor, I respectfully move the adjournment of this court out of respect to his memory.

Judge Dunne in reply said:

Mr. McNab, I listened to your remarks concerning Mr. Harrison and was very much interested, and I appreciate your suggestion as to the adjournment. It is a privilege to be permitted to bear witness to the work of a member of the profession who during a long and successful career always adhered to the fine ideals and high ethical standards. I had known Mr. Harrison for many years, and sitting in this department of the court, where he had much business, I had frequent opportunity to observe him. In his intercourse he was always courteous and considerate; in and in his practice, earnest, sincere and able. It seemed to me that, tho naturally gentle, he moved in a sturdy, forceful manner, as one who had no fear; and knowing his fine character it was to me the motion of one who believed in righteousness as a principle and not as a policy or an expedient, and that is significant in this day when so many are moved with the feverish desire to get immediate results without regard to the means or methods. I know, as we all do, that the life and deeds of a professional man are ephemeral and only in exceptional cases does his memory long survive his works' but I cannot help feeling that surely the influence of this useful, fruitful life will long remain with us an inspiration and guide to the better things.

Alexander O'Grady said:

If your Honor please, in behalf of my colleague, Mr. McEneaney, and in my own behalf, I wish to concur in all the sentiments so eloquently expressed by your Honor and my Mr. McNab.

Mr. Edward C. Harrison was an honor not only to the profession which he adorned, but also to the community in which he lived, and by his death both the bar and the community have suffered irretrievable loss – irretrievable because the position left vacant by him cannot be filled.

It is with a fitting tribute to the memory of our dear friend and brother than when this court adjourn, it so adjourns out of respect to his memory.

I join in Mr. McNab's motion that such an order be made and that it be spread upon the minutes of this court.

The court replied:

I appreciate your sentiments and heartily concur in them, Mr. O'Grady. This court will stand adjourned out of respect to the memory of Edward C. Harrison, late an officer of this court.