

# MEMORIAM

## THE UNCOMMON MAN

The Honorable Paul F. Hudson\*

*that which we are, we are;  
One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Ulysses*

On August 18, 1992, Frank G. Mahady died of cancer. He fought with courage for a life that he loved; he yielded with grace to his destiny. And now we feel his absence as friend, husband, father, judge, and humanitarian. In an age that seems to pride itself by disparaging the legal profession, Skip's work shined as an example of law that was interpreted and applied at its very best. His written decisions are scholarly guides, and his individual care for each person in every case is the paradigm for judging.

Skip and I truly enjoyed our two trips to Montreal for the Young Lawyers' Mid-Winter Thaw. We welcomed the opportunity to share our thoughts, experience, and concerns with lawyers on important ethical issues before the courts. We grew as much as our audience in the disciplines of civility and fair dealing. The unity of bar and bench is vital to our profession, and this early project has led now to other successful joint ventures. Presently, on-going county bench/bar meetings directly aid court management and the provision of legal services to indigent persons. The county bars provide major assistance in mediation programs, acting judge services, local continuing legal education, and soon an adaptation of the American Inns of Court will commence.

At the March 20, 1992 Vermont Bar Association meeting in Woodstock, Skip presented an important speech on the Vermont judiciary by lifting our focus from the myriad of problems to the higher goals of attainable justice. He reminded us, in his most

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persuasive fashion, that we must not cling to the past, but must chart the course of our profession and its judiciary into the future.

At the conclusion of his words, Skip closed with the last lines from *Ulysses*. In hindsight, I realize he was saying goodbye to all of us as friends and legal colleagues. Each of us must now bear the grief of Skip's death in our own way, but we are not alone. We will best accomplish this passage if we keep before us those wonderful gifts he shared and never dwell on what might have been. The vitality of his wisdom prevents any notion that Frank Mahady will be relegated to the past tense.