

Thomas G. Neville

October 11, 1945 - August 2, 1982

It is with great sorrow that we commend the memory of our law school classmate, law review associate, professional colleague, and friend, Thomas G. Neville, recently slain in the lobby of the Seattle office building where he practiced law. We join with Tom's friends and associates, and with the entire legal community, in extending our deepest condolences to Joan, his wife, and to Joseph, their young son. Although no words can allay their grief or mitigate their loss, the rich legacy of love and compassion Tom leaves behind must, to an extent, console and sustain them through this difficult period.

Tom was a native of Tacoma, and graduated from Curtis High School in 1963. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Washington four years later. Prior to entering law school, Tom served in the Peace Corps in Central America for two years and then worked for several years as a social worker with the State of Washington Child Protective Services. Tom graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law *cum laude* in 1979, participating on the Law Review as Associate Editor and publishing a Comment on the then newly enacted Washington Juvenile Code. After graduation and the bar examination, Tom toured Europe in the fall of 1979 and, upon his return, served as a law clerk to Judge Herbert Swanson of the Washington State Court of Appeals. In 1981, Tom entered private practice with the Seattle law firm of HOUGHTON, CLUCK, COUGHLIN & RILEY. In addition to his normal professional and family duties, Tom actively participated in the Seattle-King County Bar Association's volunteer program, and family duties, Tom actively participated in the Seattle-King County Bar serving on the Association's Cuban Task Force counseling refugees.

The foregoing sketch of Tom's life and career does not begin to do justice to his memory. Tom was a multi-faceted individual, and his memory evokes a number of diverse images: husband, father, friend, scholar, professional colleague. . .baseball fanatic. Although Tom's personality did not lend itself to uniform classification, distinct elements of the individual were evident upon

even casual acquaintance.

The impression one received of Tom was that of gentleness and compassion. It is particularly ironic that he should fall victim to a senseless act of violence, because Tom was the very antithesis of violence. He was a humanist, deeply committed to the elimination of injustice and social inequality, and to the interest and welfare of the individual. Tom's work with local bar association volunteer programs and his service in the Peace Corps perhaps best exemplify this aspect of his character, but the philosophy inured deeply, and transcended manifest actions.

Tom was a gentle individual. Too often a quality of gentleness is mistaken as weakness; Tom was a striking refutation of this misconception. His quiet strength and depth of character both inspired and fortified family, friends, and associates alike. Compassionate and idealistic, Tom was a true gentleman in the most profound and moral sense of the words. It is particularly appropriate that this issue of the University of Puget Sound Law Review be dedicated to Tom's memory because he was the quintessential law review participant — intelligent, analytic, thorough, and tireless in his efforts to further the best interests of the Review. The degree of his participation on the Review only further evidences the depth and energy of his character and his selfless willingness to share and give of himself.

Tom's death leaves a void in the lives of everyone who knew and loved him. The particularly brutal and senseless nature of his death only heightens our sense of loss and introduces an element of frustration into our recollection of him. In truth, the world is a poorer place for his passing, but we, having possessed the privilege of his friendship and presence, must take strength from his memory, and solace from the realization that we are better individuals for having known him.

Steven Soha
Editor-in-Chief

Clifford D. Foster
Managing Editor

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