

Remarks of
U.S. Senior Circuit Judge
Frank M. Coffin

In Memory of
Dana H. Gallup

First Baptist Church
Newton, Mass., October 16, 2002

I was privileged to work with Dana in writing the "Appreciation" leaflet, covering in broad brush strokes his life and work. But any effort at finer strokes in appreciation of his character were repulsed. For the first thing you must know about Dana was his almost overpowering modesty and self effacement. Now that he is not physically with us, and can no longer overrule me, I can at last talk about what kind of a person he was.

What I shall say can be only a partial portrait. It reflects my own close association with him during the last third of the last century and the three years of this. The man we celebrate today possessed a coherent set of qualities that I characterize in language usually thought to be dismissive, but today in a spirit wholly admiring. When I speak of Dana as "old fashioned," I speak as Antony did of Brutus in "Julius Caesar," in calling him the "noblest Roman of them all."

In addition to modesty, he always presented to others an upbeat countenance, no matter what might have been the concerns and irritations of the day. I want you to picture him as he appears in the leaflet, as he was until his illness finally gained the upper hand. A tall man, with grey hair clipped short in a military manner, he held his head high with either a thoughtful or mischievous gleam in his eyes, and never walked at a slow pace. I could always be sure of receiving some sprightly riposte if I gave him the slightest opening.

Another attribute rarely found in this era of mobility among jobs was his intensely focused sense of mission in life, to which he adhered for four decades, spanning every level of responsibility in federal judicial administration from court crier to circuit executive.

Along with a steady focus, Dana had an elevated sense of duty to his job, to others, and to his church and community. His service as the primary staff leader to the late Bailey Aldrich, to me, and to Levin Campbell when each of us held the post of Chief Judge of our court was valued by each of us as something rare and precious. But he was just as accommodating to members of the bar and to the confused and frustrated citizen litigant.

Another of Dana's old fashioned qualities was a highly developed self reliance. Unlike most executives in today's world, Dana could do every job in his fast expanding establishment, from logging in new cases if an employee was ill, to helping guide top policy decisions. This sense spilled over into what I have called "purposeful parsimony," a resistance to spending more money, time, and personnel than was absolutely necessary, and only after one had done all one could on his own.

Then there was his devotion to family. During these past days of poignancy, Dana and his three boys have had a rich communication, but, in the Gallup tradition, this will remain a private preserve. And he has been a caring husband of Clara and a loving stepfather to her children.

In addition to devotion to present family, Dana had an old fashioned reverence for his forebears. Always mindful of his father as a role model of professional and civic achievement, it

was a constant challenge to me and others to convince him that he more than measured up to the standards that had been set.

Finally, Dana demonstrated an old fashioned ability to look life - and death - in the eye and the courage to continue to give life his best just as long as he could.

So, let us go back to Antony's concluding words about Brutus, words that apply to the friend we celebrate today:

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man!"