

WILLIAM

A.FRIEDLANDER

A LITERARY CLUB MEMORIAL

HE WAS A GOOD MAN

OUR FRIEND, OUR COMPANION AND OUR FELLOW LITERARIAN HAS GONE. WE MOURN HIS LOSS, YET, WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE. HE WAS A GOOD MAN, BETTER THAN MANY AND THE BEST AMONG US.

WE HAVE NO NEED FOR A RECITATION OF BILL'S INNUMERABLE INVOLVEMENTS BUT HERE ARE A FEW OF HIS FAVORITES. HE SERVED ON THE BOARD OF CINCINNATI BELL, CLOPAY, UNION CENTRAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AND OF COURSE BARTLETT.

HE LOVED THE CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, THE ART MUSEUM. THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY, THE UNITED WAY, ARTS WAVE AND HEBREW UNION COLLEGE.

BILL WAS A FAMILY MAN. SO OFTEN HE WORKED WITH SUSAN, HIS WIFE, IN ALL OF THEIR ENDEAVORS AND MOST OFTEN FOR HIS BELOVED CITY, CINCINNATI. HE SPENT REAL AND MEANINGFUL TIME WITH HIS THREE CHILDREN AND FIVE GRANDCHILDREN.

GIBBY CAREY, BILL BURLEIGH, DAVE REICHERT, TED STRIKER AND I COLLABORATED ON THIS MEMORIAL.

GIBBY SAID " HE WAS A GOOD MAN." WHEN HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI FOUNDATION HE INCLUDED ME, GIBBY, IN A SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVENTORY AND PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. HE BROUGHT CINCINNATI'S LEADING MINDS TO THE TABLE.

IT WAS A LESSON TO SEE HOW BILL LED AND FOCUSSED. HE TEASED OUT THE HIGHEST OF POTENTIALS. HE USED FINELY TUNED TECHNIQUES THAT HE WOULD LATER BRING TO THE LITERARY CLUB'S CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.

HIS PROCESS WAS A LIFE TIME LESSON IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, IN ITS FINEST FORM. GIBBY CONTINUED, " I CAME AWAY WITH A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF HOW A FIRST CLASS MIND, PROPERLY MOTIVATED, CAN SORT OUT THE MOST COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING PROBLEMS." BILL WASN'T JUST A GOOD MAN. HE WAS THE BEST WE HAD. HE WAS THE BEST WE HAD.

HE LEFT HIS MARK IN SO MANY WONDERFUL WAYS.

DAVE REICHERT BROUGHT RECOLLECTIONS OF BILL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LITERARY CLUB WERE BILL HAD BEEN A MEMBER SINCE 1991, TREASURER FROM 2004 TO 2009 AND TRUSTEE SINCE 2011.

DAVE SAID WE SHOULD RE-READ BILL'S PAPER "THE ROYAL WHORE" THE FASCINATING STORY

OF WALLIS WARFIELD SIMPSON OR "THE EXPLOSION ON A SUNNY SUNDAY". WORLD WAR II. DAVID REMINDED US OF BILL'S LOVE OF GOLF AND ART AND CHAMBER MUSIC AND HIS ATTACHMENT TO FRIENDS AND THEN SAID "HE WAS A GOOD MAN".

TED STRIKER WATCHED AS BILL BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE WYOMING SCHOOL BOARD. A THANKLESS JOB YET PERFORMED WITH BILL'S USUAL EXCELLENCE. TED TALKED OF HIS LONG AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND SAID, HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

AND THEN BILL BURLEIGH WITH HIS CHARACTERISTIC DEPTH OF THOUGHT AND HIS INSIGHT, IN WELL WRITTEN, WORDSMITH LANGUAGE SAID "THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THAT ANY MORE, AND MORE' S THE PITY. "

BILL PRATT BROUGHT A SURPRISE TO THE COMMITTEE. WHILE ACTING AS OUR CONSTITUTION CHAIRMAN BILL QUOTED YEATS, A POEM FROM HIS COLLEGE DAYS AT AMHURST WHICH FOR BILL DESCRIBED THE ESSENCE OF THE LITERARY CLUB:

" WHERE BEAUTY HAS NO EBB,
DECAY NO FLOOD

BUT JOY IS WISDOM
TIME AN ENDLESS SONG"

AND FOR MYSELF, I KNOW, HE WAS A GOOD MAN. HE PRACTICED WISDOM IN AN AUTHENTIC WAY, THOUGHTFULLY, ALWAYS STRIVING FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN, AWARDED IN 1999. HE LED WITH CONFIDENCE WITH A FOCUSSED VISION. HE HAD THE TENACITY OF A RED TAILED HAWK. HIS LIFE WAS STREWN WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS. AND SUSAN HIS WIFE OF 59 YEARS CLOSELY SHARED IN HIS LIFE AND HIS SUCCESS.

HIS FAMILY SURROUNDED HIM WHEN HE LOST HIS BATTLE WITH CANCER. SUSAN FOUND HERSELF ALONGSIDE THE MAN SHE LOVED.

SOFTLY, SHE HUGGED HIM.

BILL LOVED FISHING, BILL LOVED FLY FISHING. IT REMAINED AN IMPORTANT PART OF HIS LIFE. IN MONTANA IN ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLACES WHERE BILL'S DRY FLIES LURED THE WARY TROUT, BILL LAWARRE AND I GENTLY SPRINKLED HIS ASHES IN THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER. THE RISING SUN CAST ITS FALL, TAWNY COLORS OVER THE STREAM. OUR TEARS JOINED HIS ASHES, IN THE CURRENT OF THE RIVER, FLOWING MEMORABLY. FOREVER.

HE WAS THE BEST THAT WE HAD. THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THAT ANYMORE, AND MORE'S THE PITY.

“HE WAS A GOOD MAN.”

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