

*original*

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
TENTH CIRCUIT

MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS HONORING JUDGE ALFRED P. MURRAH

United States Court House  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
March 15, 1978

Frank M. Sickles  
Official Court Reporter  
P. O. Box 1975  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101

1 UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
2 TENTH CIRCUIT

3  
4 MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS HONORING JUDGE ALFRED P. MURRAH

5 United States Court House

6 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

7 March 15, 1978

8  
9 BEFORE:

10 HONORABLE OLIVER SETH, Presiding  
11 Chief Judge, U. S. Court of Appeals  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

12 HONORABLE WILLIAM J. HOLLOWAY, JR.  
13 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101

14 HONORABLE ROBERT H. McWILLIAMS  
15 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Denver, Colorado 80294

16 HONORABLE JAMES E. BARRETT  
17 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

18 HONORABLE WILLIAM E. DOYLE  
19 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Denver, Colorado 80294

20 HONORABLE MONROE G. McKAY  
21 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

22 HONORABLE JAMES K. LOGAN  
23 U. S. Circuit Judge  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

24  
25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Opening:

Chief Judge Oliver Seth . . . . . Page 3

Addresses:

Donald S. Kennedy, Chairman of the Board  
Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company  
. . . . . 3

Daniel G. Gibbens, Professor  
College of Law, University of Oklahoma  
. . . . . 10

William J. Holloway, Jr.  
U. S. Circuit Judge  
. . . . . 20

Closing Remarks:

Chief Judge Oliver Seth . . . . . 21

P R O C E E D I N G S

March 15, 1978

- - - - -

1  
2  
3  
4 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Good afternoon. We are convened to-  
5 day for the very special purpose of receiving a memorial honoring  
6 Judge Murrah. We are very pleased to have Judge Murrah's family  
7 here. It adds a great deal; very pleased to have you, and also  
8 to have all the District Judges from Oklahoma present. We thank  
9 you for coming also.

10 We are grateful for the presence of the other friends  
11 and associates of Judge Murrah.

12 The Court has asked Mr. Kennedy and Professor Gibbens  
13 to be here today and to participate and to offer a memorial in  
14 honor of Judge Murrah. I think we will call on Mr. Kennedy first.  
15 I think you all know him. He is a very successful businessman,  
16 a long time friend and associate of Judge Murrah and Mrs. Murrah.

17 Mr. Kennedy.

18 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you. I don't know whether I am  
19 supposed to face the Court or face the audience. What do you  
20 suggest?

21 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Well, I think that's good, right  
22 where you are.

23 MR. KENNEDY: You answered my question.

24 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: You are equal to most any situation.

25 MR. KENNEDY: Well, I don't know about that. You know,

1 I am very happy to be here and to discuss anyone who has a build-  
2 ing named after him like our most recent building and library a  
3 few days ago.

4           It is a very difficult assignment, especially when you  
5 are a long time friend, and I suppose it is hardly necessary for  
6 me to mention to this distinguished group that Judge Murrah was  
7 really a "workaholic", if I can say it right, but anyway, he  
8 worked so hard that we never had much fun, but what I want to  
9 talk about today is some of the fun that we did have, because I  
10 don't think this needs to be too serious.

11           As a matter of fact, he was such a friendly and coura-  
12 geous man. He had courage because he asked me to speak to the  
13 Tenth Circuit two times, and to the American Bar two times, and  
14 that took a great deal of courage because in the first place, I  
15 am certainly not a lawyer; in the second place, I am not a  
16 speaker. So he had the courage to do both of those things, and  
17 he did that because he was just such a warm human being, and if  
18 I were to write a book about him, I think it would be entitled,  
19 "Judges Are People."

20           I think that's one of the best ways to describe  
21 Judge Murrah, because he was a very friendly man with quite wide-  
22 spread interests. As a matter of fact, his interests were in  
23 his family, his church, his job, in education and civic and  
24 cultural activities.

25           And so I want to talk about those a little bit today,

1 but also a few incidents about his life that I happened to par-  
2 ticipate in to some extent.

3           Perhaps my first contact with Judge Murrah was when he  
4 was with Judge Bohanon. Do you want to hold up your hand, Judge  
5 Bohanon? With Judge Bohanon over at the Seminole oil field where  
6 they, I think, slept in their office. My contact with Judge  
7 Murrah was, we had a team of mules pulling some transformers  
8 through the center of town, and they fell down, and both of them  
9 drowned.

10           So the IRS, as is their custom, they didn't believe it,  
11 and so we had to get Judge Murrah to make an affidavit about the  
12 dead mules.

13           That was my first contact with him, but I think it is  
14 rather interesting to realize that he went from that muddy city  
15 of Seminole where mules could drown in the middle of town, to the  
16 Dolley Madison House in Washington, D. C. Of course he had a few  
17 intermediate stops, but the important thing is to think that any-  
18 body could keep their perspective so well to go from a city like  
19 Seminole was in those days -- I could tell a lot more about it  
20 but I'd better not do that -- but anyway, he made that change  
21 and kept his balance, and I think it is wonderful to think about  
22 that; and sometime thereafter, of course, he moved to Oklahoma  
23 City, and since his wife and my wife were sorority sisters, we  
24 became lifetime friends.

25           I will give one example of that friendship, which is

1 pretty important, at least to me. He and I were playing golf and  
2 there was a very strong wind behind us. I hit a high approach  
3 from pretty far back. I didn't think I hit the ball that far  
4 but I did with the help of the wind, and there was a lawyer just  
5 getting his ball, although he was known in these parts and even  
6 with ambulances, and so the ball hit this lawyer right in the  
7 back of the head just as it came down.

8 I was worried, so I handed my club to Judge Murrah and  
9 I said, "Go up there and tell him you hit that shot."

10 So he went up and he said, "Lawyer, I want to apolo-  
11 gize."

12 And the lawyer said, "I'm the one that should apolo-  
13 gize. Your ball would have gone in the hole if my head hadn't  
14 been in the way."

15 So you can see that that was a true friend, but he did  
16 suggest to me thereafter that I ought to get some liability in-  
17 surance if I was going to keep on hitting like that.

18 But I should say something about him, too, that in re-  
19 ligion Judge Murrah helped to build the Crown Heights Methodist  
20 Church. I think that he and in those days Judge Bohanon had a  
21 joint bank account wherein nobody knew who was helping build the  
22 church, but anyway, they built a church; and in young people's  
23 work he did so many things. He was a leader in the Last Frontier  
24 Council of the Boy Scouts. Beyond that, he encouraged any young  
25 man to become successful lawyers, like the Professor over here

1 who is going to speak later. In civic work he did many things  
2 that I think are worth mentioning. He headed the United Fund,  
3 and after that year that he had it we reached the goal every year  
4 for a long time. We had never reached it. He gave it the proper  
5 start.

6 Furthermore, to help the Orchestra, the Symphony Orches-  
7 try, he was head of the Beaux Arts Ball. That's a real chore to  
8 march in wearing all that regalia, but he did it.

9 But he had some time for fun as well as other things.  
10 I might mention one thing about that.

11 We, with three other couples and the Murrahs, decided  
12 to learn how to do the rhumba, and so we engaged a teacher and  
13 the teacher had a wife, a very beautiful blonde one, and so they  
14 both came to teach us every time, and the wife would always dance  
15 with the worst dancer. That happened to be Judge Murrah. I  
16 tried to dance the worst I could but he beat me very time. All  
17 you had to do was just dance and say "One, two, one, two, three"  
18 and then do the rhumba. I don't know, but he got to dance with  
19 the teacher almost all the time.

20 In any event, though, having learned to dance, we de-  
21 cided we would go to the Mardi Gras at New Orleans. We knew we  
22 would never be dancers like Judge Chandler but we thought we'd do  
23 the best we could, so we went down to the Mardi Gras. As soon as  
24 we got there it was just ready to start and they were giving  
25 badges that said "Committee".



1           Of course we didn't know what we were supposed to do,  
2 so as soon as we got the badges we were just standing there and  
3 in came a very distinguished looking lady, and she said, "I am  
4 Lady Makin. Will you gentlemen please seat me?"

5           Well, we said, "Well, we don't know where you are  
6 supposed to sit."

7           And it turned out the whole thing was in her honor.  
8 She had come from England just to be there that night.

9           Finally we could see we were getting in trouble, so we  
10 said, "We are imposters and maybe you are, too." We shouldn't  
11 have said that, it turned out, because the next day we went to  
12 the review of the parade and there we were sitting by her again,  
13 but she had no sense of humor whatever.

14           The next thing that happened, in came the Governor of  
15 Louisiana and the Mayor of New Orleans. They were supposed to  
16 have looked after her in the first place. If they had been on  
17 time we wouldn't have had this embarrassment.

18           But anyway, I guess I had better return to more serious  
19 things. One other thing serious about it -- in a way it is  
20 serious -- he and I went quail hunting, that is, Judge Murrah and  
21 I went; so I went one way for awhile and he went the other. I  
22 fired quite a few shots and finally got me a quail, and when he  
23 came back I said, "How did you get along?"

24           He said, "Well, I got my limit."

25           I said, "You did? I only heard you fire one shot."

1           And he said, "That's my limit." He said, "I don't like  
2 to shoot those birds anyway."

3           That's just the kind of a person he was. But to go  
4 back to more serious things for a moment, Judge Murrah really  
5 served with distinction on the Southern Methodist University  
6 Board of Directors as Trustee. He did a lot of good for them and  
7 of course he did a lot of good on Oklahoma University.

8           In the Law School they have a new building and he was  
9 instrumental in the development down at Norman; so he kept on  
10 doing all of these things despite the fact that he was so busy.

11           Finally, I had better say that he engaged in a very fine  
12 situation all over, wherever he went.

13           As I suggested in the first place, he was active in the  
14 American Bar over the years. I think he was one of the ones,  
15 with Judge Phillips, who encouraged the meeting of this group  
16 every year in those conferences where he asked me to speak twice.  
17 Of course that was one of his mistakes.

18           But finally, I think I ought to mention his family life.  
19 Despite being headquartered in Denver and Washington, he commuted  
20 back and forth, and he called up to see how his son Paul was be-  
21 having pretty often, often to see if he was working -- and so he  
22 was a real commuter and he did so many things that all of us in  
23 Oklahoma have appreciated.

24           I think as I close my remarks in this building I should  
25 add that by every count he was a man for all seasons. I think

1 that's the best way I could describe him, and I think I shall  
2 long remember him as a real friend.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Thank you very much.

5 Professor Gibbens, would you step forward, please.

6 Professor Gibbens is a long time associate of Judge  
7 Murrah. We all know you from the academic world. We would be  
8 happy to hear from you.

9 PROFESSOR GIBBENS: Thank you, Judge Seth.

10 May it please the Court, and family and friends of  
11 Chief Judge Murrah:

12 In 1952 a tough-minded theoretician, writing about one  
13 of the more technical areas of the law, stated: "The decision  
14 was explained in a compact, but complete and luminous, opinion  
15 by Judge Murrah, an opinion which well could serve as the text  
16 for a class in the technique of judicial composition."

17 These 1952 words were written by Maurice H. Merrill,  
18 who is now Research Professor Emeritus at the University of  
19 Oklahoma.

20 At the time of Judge Murrah's death, a letter to the  
21 editor appeared in one of the Oklahoma City newspapers, from a  
22 nationally eminent Justice on the Massachusetts State Supreme  
23 Court. It read as follows: "The death of Judge Alfred P. Murrah  
24 constitutes a loss not only to the State of Oklahoma and the  
25 Federal Judiciary, but also to the state judicial systems to

1 which he contributed so much. As first and former President of  
2 the National Center for State Courts, I am in a unique position  
3 to testify to the assistance which he provided so willingly in  
4 the early days of the Center. Without his kindness and wise ad-  
5 vice, the great work in which the Center is now engaged would  
6 not have proceeded as rapidly as it has. Oklahomans should know  
7 that state court judges, as well as federal judges throughout  
8 the United States, had the highest regard and warmest respect for  
9 him."

10 In July of 1976, at the dedication of the new Law  
11 Center at the University of Oklahoma, then Retired Justice Tom C.  
12 Clark of the United States Supreme Court said these words:

13 "I noticed when I arrived here this afternoon that the  
14 Program of Dedication was in memory of Judge Alfred P. Murrah.  
15 It is certainly fitting that the new Law Center be dedicated to  
16 the memory of this stalwart Oklahoman. He was a member of the  
17 University's original Law Center Commission, and I remember him  
18 when he talked to me about it prior to the organization of the  
19 Commission. He kept me informed from time to time about the  
20 progress being made.

21 "As Governor Boren earlier stated, Al contributed im-  
22 measurably to the establishment of this Law Center, which I am  
23 sure will develop into one of the great Law Centers of our coun-  
24 try. Al Murrah is not here in place today, but as I walked  
25 around the Law Center, I saw his works. His presence is not only

1 all around the place, but it is also in the hearts of all of the  
2 people who work or come there. We miss Al Murrah, not only at  
3 the Center -- not only in Washington -- but throughout this coun-  
4 try of ours.

5 "However, his spirit shall always continue to live  
6 wherever good people gather together to improve the administra-  
7 tion of justice, for he is the guiding light of that endeavor.  
8 He continues to be a great and faithful leader and so shall it  
9 always be."

10 These three quotations, I think, the areas in which the  
11 Judge was perhaps best known, as a professional, anyway, as a  
12 legal craftsman, as an exceptional law reformer, and as a pro-  
13 moter of excellence in legal education.

14 I'd like to say a few words about the legal education  
15 aspect of his work, because he did give much of his time and  
16 talent to many law schools over the nation, responding willingly  
17 to invitations to speak to law students and assist in a variety  
18 of educational programs.

19 His efforts are perhaps best known at Southern Metho-  
20 dist University, which Mr. Kennedy mentioned, also Oklahoma City  
21 University, their Law School as well as the University of Okla-  
22 homa where he graduated in 1928.

23 With these institutions he served in a variety of  
24 specific advisory and implementation capacities, endeavoring al-  
25 ways to promote the growth of programs of the highest quality,

1 directed toward educating the lawyers and judges of the future.

2           At the entrance of our new Law Center building, there  
3 are two large bronze plaques. One of course lists the President  
4 and Officers of the University at the time that building was be-  
5 gun. On the other plaque is listed the members of the Law Center  
6 Commission, together with their chairman, Judge Murrah.

7           Now this was a body that was formed in 1969. The mem-  
8 bers included a number of people of national stature, including  
9 Erwin Griswold, then Solicitor General of the United States and  
10 for twenty-five years Dean of the Harvard Law School, and also  
11 included Dean Charles Galvin of the SMU Law School, and others  
12 nationally; and among Oklahoma people was David Boren, who was  
13 then State Representative from Seminole County, and of course is  
14 our present Governor.

15           In this Law Center Commission work, the Judge utilized  
16 his talents for effective promotion as well as his focus on  
17 excellence. In a letter in my files dated March 4, 1969 to his  
18 fellow members of this Commission, he stated this:

19           "Since our meeting last Monday I have been gravely con-  
20 cerned lest we fail to grasp the conceptual dimensions of the  
21 Law Center. As I indicated just as we were leaving, we seem to  
22 be more concerned about the preservation of the status quo than  
23 the establishment of a Law Center to serve the future needs of  
24 this state. The Regents and the Administration have said that  
25 our Law Center shall be great, and I am determined to take them

1 at their word. Our 'Whereases' are more negative than they are  
2 affirmative. Let's lift our eyes to the hills and meet the  
3 challenge."

4           The Commission responded to the Judge's urgings, and  
5 formulated concrete plans not just for the new Law Center build-  
6 ing, which of course we have, but for an enlarged group of pro-  
7 grams tailored to meet the future needs of the state, and of  
8 course the challenge of the Judge's words is still fresh on our  
9 minds.

10           As those of us who are gathered here today well know,  
11 these kinds of comments are just a sampling of the many efforts  
12 over the years to acknowledge the good works and the rich life  
13 of Judge Murrah.

14           Because of the very rich diversity of his activities --  
15 because of the intensity of the efforts which he gave to each of  
16 them, and because of the fast pace at which he lived, (one had to  
17 stay, I think, in good physical condition just to keep up with  
18 him walking from his car to the office) -- he is well remembered  
19 and well loved by a large number and a wide variety of people;  
20 and I think really it's the people that perhaps, again as Mr.  
21 Kennedy mentioned, that perhaps should be the focus here as well.

22           The Twentieth Century American system of justice was  
23 the focus of his life, and it may be that this system of justice  
24 is one of the true marvels of the history of mankind. It has  
25 shown itself to have the capacity to adapt itself to the various

1 crises of human affairs. It has shown itself to have a capacity  
2 to dispense justice to all sorts of conditions of people -- to a  
3 President who would perhaps put himself in some ways above the  
4 law -- to the poorest and meanest of those who live among us --  
5 and to the largest and most powerful of our corporate business  
6 entities.

7           No one says that this system is perfect. Certainly  
8 Judge Murrah didn't say so. But his life was dedicated, I think,  
9 to the proposition that this system was very much worth working  
10 on to make it work better. Perhaps this is the true genius of  
11 this marvel of human history, this American system of justice,  
12 that so many strong and good people have devoted so much of their  
13 lives to its improvement. There is no doubt that it was improved  
14 by Judge Murrah.

15           But what is this American system of justice? It has,  
16 to be sure, many elements that might include laws, customs and  
17 procedures. To these institutions Judge Murrah gave so much of  
18 his life working on; but if these institutions are thoughtfully  
19 analyzed and reduced down to the bare bones, as Judge Murrah  
20 liked to talk about as he worked on his opinion, "To get it down  
21 to the bare bones" -- this immense and complex system is made up  
22 of nothing more than the people who work in it and make it work.

23           Chief Justice John Marshall said with characteristic  
24 perceptiveness in 1803, "The Government of the United States has  
25 been emphatically termed a government of laws, and not of men."



1           One of our founding fathers, Ben Franklin, stated with  
2 equal perceptiveness at the time that he was urging the adoption  
3 of our present Constitution in 1787, "There is no form of govern-  
4 ment but what may be a blessing to the people if well adminis-  
5 tered, and I believe further that this is likely to be well ad-  
6 ministered for a course of years, and can only end in despotism,  
7 as other forms have done before it, when the people shall become  
8 so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of  
9 any other."

10           Judge Murrah's life spanned the last one-third of our  
11 nation's first two hundred years, and the Constitution which  
12 Mr. Franklin urged on his colleagues is nearing its two-hundredth  
13 birthday. During all this "course of years", we can see that our  
14 government and especially our system of justice has been indeed  
15 well administered, but especially so, I think, in the time frame  
16 with which we are most familiar and in which the Judge so heavily  
17 invested himself, the last few years. And obviously, it is the  
18 people who do the administering. It is people who have worked at  
19 it, made it work, and most especially perhaps people such as  
20 Judge Murrah who worked at this task so intensively and effec-  
21 tively.

22           I think we all know as well that Judge Murrah's impact  
23 on the system is more than working on the laws and procedures  
24 and customs of the practice of law and the practice of courts.

25           Again, the Judge knew that the system at the present

1 time and in the future is no more than the people who work on it  
2 and in it, and accordingly it is accurate to say that the Judge's  
3 living was focused really, it seems, not so much on the system of  
4 justice but on people, people within the system and people out-  
5 side of the system.

6 I think really the Judge would be entirely uncomfort-  
7 able at the suggestion that his professional efforts were devoted  
8 to something as impersonal as the system. He is well and lovingly  
9 remembered because truly his professional efforts and the whole  
10 of his living was directed to people -- to the individual people  
11 with whom he lived, and not an abstract system.

12 I would like to relate a little bit of a personal ex-  
13 ample of the Judge's relationship to people. This reflects his  
14 relationships to his law clerks, and of course that was initially  
15 where I got to know the Judge.

16 I think all of those who had the good fortune to serve  
17 as his law clerk look back on that experience as incredibly rich.  
18 As the Judge was sensitive to the needs of individual people, and  
19 he was indeed, I am quite sure that he adjusted his working habits  
20 and relationships to a certain extent to fit his clerk's indivi-  
21 dual needs.

22 But with a number of us -- some of us have talked about  
23 this quite a bit -- there were two standard operating procedures  
24 that the Judge used on his law clerks. One was that each clerk  
25 became, after a few weeks on the job, really a very few, fewer

1 than was really quite appropriate, each clerk became after a few  
2 weeks on the job, "The very best one I ever had."

3           And then the second working procedure was that each one  
4 of us felt at about the same time the spurs of an instigator of  
5 activity and a seeker of excellence. He was never quite satis-  
6 fied with our performance and he was always pushing, prodding,  
7 spurring and challenging us to see if we couldn't learn, that  
8 we could be more productive than we already were or thought we  
9 were, that we could work harder. Most of us thought we had al-  
10 ready learned to work pretty hard, and so his efforts were to  
11 encourage us to learn something about ourselves. I learned in-  
12 deed how much we could do.

13           There was one special feature of the Judge's work with  
14 his law clerks and it involved another sharing activity. I am  
15 sure that many who have not experienced this feature would think  
16 it was an onerous task maybe.

17           One of the conditions of employment as his law clerk  
18 was to drive the Judge to and from work each morning and evening.  
19 As those of us who did it know well, it was not an onerous task  
20 at all, but one of the most enriching aspects of our association  
21 with the Judge.

22           It gave the Judge and his clerk, both of whom were  
23 particularly busy, short of time, a regular period nearly every  
24 day in which they could converse about those things which were  
25 nearest and dearest to them, whether it be the benefits of church

1 participation and Sunday School teaching, or the benefits of sex  
2 love and marriage, or beauties of people seen along the way to  
3 work, or the beauty of the sky itself which deserved to be  
4 noticed from time to time; things of this life to be shared and  
5 to be enjoyed among people who find themselves working together.

6           These trips to and from the office were indeed a very  
7 special time. I think they reflect the Judge's awareness of the  
8 need to utilize fully the limited time we are allocated in this  
9 life, and his awareness that it was not really the system with  
10 which he was engaged in his work, but it was people, and the law  
11 clerk of course was one of these people who had the good fortune  
12 to have this daily experience.

13           In closing, I would say, I think, the obvious thing.  
14 Judge Murrah had a larger sense of life, I think, and a larger  
15 capacity for life than most people. He loved the law. There is  
16 no doubt about that. But he loved more the whole of living, and  
17 he loved people; and law to him was merely a part of people, and  
18 a part of living.

19           His contributions to those he worked with and those he  
20 lived with were extraordinarily many, extraordinarily varied and  
21 extraordinarily rich.

22           I think that those that had the pleasure of associating  
23 with him at one time or another during our lives feel the rich-  
24 ness of it in particular.

25           Thank you.

1 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Thank you, Professor Gibbens.

2 I will ask Judge Holloway to respond.

3 Judge Holloway.

4 JUDGE HOLLOWAY: Chief Judge Seth, Mrs. Murrah, and  
5 friends, the monumental contributions of Judge Murrah as a Judge,  
6 as a leader of Judges, and in judicial reform, have been elo-  
7 quently recounted by Chief Justice Burger, by the late Mr. Jus-  
8 tice Clark and countless others; but beyond these contributions,  
9 we of the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit do also have our  
10 special debt of gratitude to acknowledge to Judge Murrah, our  
11 Chief Judge for eleven years.

12 Each of us, and the Judges of this Circuit who have  
13 served with Judge Murrah, in his remarkable judicial career of  
14 almost forty years, have felt a rare inspiration and personal  
15 challenge from Judge Murrah.

16 By the sheer force of his personality and his deep  
17 dedication, Judge Murrah has shaped the course of this Circuit  
18 and this Court, and has given us a momentum that still moves us.

19 Judge Murrah began his service on this Court in the  
20 early days of Judge Phillips, Judge Bratton, Judge Huxman, and  
21 his dear and close personal friend, Judge John C. Pickett.  
22 Judge Pickett planned to be with us today but had to call and  
23 regret because of illness of his wife.

24 Those Judges I have mentioned, and all of us who have  
25 served with him, have special memories of Judge Murrah. Perhaps

1 our keenest memories are of his humor, his kindness, and his wise  
2 counsel, but despite the different perspectives we each have of  
3 him, our memory in common of Judge Murrah is, I think, of his  
4 boundless energy and dedication to the judiciary.

5           The Chief was always encouraging us to do our best, to  
6 rededicate ourselves to the increasing tasks ahead, to deal with  
7 the mounting case load with innovation, and still to keep the  
8 quality of justice up to the standard worthy of the rich tradi-  
9 tions of this Court.

10           This is our heritage from Judge Murrah, and it is an  
11 imperishable page in the history of this Court and all the courts  
12 of this land.

13           CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Thank you.

14           I think all of us who had the very good fortune to  
15 serve with Judge Murrah will always remember with great pleasure  
16 this dynamic, sensitive, compassionate person. All of you who  
17 are here today, I am sure, who worked with or associated with him  
18 would each have your own memories of this unusual man.

19           It is easy to say that men have many talents, but there  
20 are exceedingly few who are of many talents and who also are able  
21 to direct these talents effectively for the good of so many people  
22 under such a variety of circumstances as Judge Murrah.

23           I think, also, Judge Murrah was especially blessed with  
24 the presence, encouragement, and the companionship and help from  
25 his dear wife and from his family. I think that had a very im-

1 portant part in his life and contributed greatly to his success  
2 in all of his endeavors.

3 Is there anything further, Mr. Clerk?

4 MR. HOECKER, Clerk: I believe there is nothing further  
5 today, your Honor.

6 CHIEF JUDGE SETH: Court will be in recess subject to  
7 call.

8 (The proceedings are adjourned.)  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFIED A TRUE TRANSCRIPT  
May 18, 1978



FRANK M. SICKLES, C. S. R.  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER