

Missan 13,5753

04/04/1993

EULOGY FOR MELVIN FRIEDMAN

THERE IS AN INOPPORTUNE TENDENCY, THAT WHEN ONE HAS SUFFERED A LONG DEBELITATING ILLNESS AND FINALLY PASSES ON, OUR MEMORY FOCUSES ON THE SUFFERING AND PAIN. WE FORGET THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVE LIVING. THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THE JOYS, THE LAUGHTER AND INSTEAD OFFER PLATITUDES SUCH AS "IT'S A BLESSING THAT HE'S GONE" OR "HE SUFFERED MUCH". IT'S ALMOST AS IF WE BESTOW A FINAL PUNISHMENT FOR SUFFERING, DENYING THE DECEASED THE MEMORY OF ACHIEVEMENT AND LOVE BY FOCUSING ONLY ON THE YEARS OF SUFFERING.

WE ARE HERE TODAY, NOT TO LINGER ON THE YEARS OF ILLNESS, BUT TO REMEMBER MELVIN FRIEDMAN AS HE WAS WHEN HE WAS A VIBRANT HEALTHY MAN AT THE TOP OF HIS PROGRESSION. MELVIN WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN WHO HAD A SUCCESSFUL LAW PRACTICE, HONORED BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND SERVING AS BOTH KING'S COUNCIL AND QUEEN'S COUNCIL. HE SERVED THE COMMUNITY WELL AS AN ACTIVE PART OF WHAT HE HAD CALLED A "UNIQUE LAW PRACTICE" IN THE COMBINATION OF FRIEDMAN, LUBERMAN AND NAWSON.

HIS PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS ALLOWED HIM TO DISPLAY A VERY GENEROUS CHARACTER. WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGH, HE WAS THERE FOR MANY PEOPLE, HELPING PUT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH UNIVERSITY. GIVING, SO THAT OTHERS WOULD TASTE THE SUCCESS HE EXPERIENCED. HE HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN JEWISH PHILANTHROPY AND WAS HONORED BY THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM FOR HIS GENEROSITY. HE WAS A SUPPORTER OF BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION. HE HAD LIFETIME SEATS AND MAINTAINED HIS MEMBERSHIP EVEN DURING HIS LAST YEARS OF ILLNESS.

MELVIN HAD A STRONG FEELING OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY. HE WAS MARRIED TO FLORENCE FOR 33 YEARS AND SHE IN TURN WAS ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF ALL HIS INTEREST AND CONCERNS.

TED RECALLS THAT MEL WAS "ALWAYS A FATHER TO ME", FULFILLING ALL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. HIS NIECE, MIRIAM, RECALLS THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR PROXIMITY IN AGE, WAS MUCH MORE THAN AN UNCLE - NIECE RELATIONSHIP. THEY WERE LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER, JOKING AND SQUABBLING LIKE ALL GOOD SIBLINGS.

"WHEN MY UNCLE DIED", SHE RECALLS, HE TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS AND KEPT EVERYTHING TOGETHER, SO THE FAMILY COULD KEEP GOING. HE WAS ALWAYS A FINE GENTLEMAN. WELL DRESSED AND RESPECTED BY ALL. PEOPLE HAVE MEMORIES OF HIS WALKING TO AND FROM WORK, NODDING, GREETING AND EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES.

TED RECALLS THAT HIS FATHER'S GENEROSITY WAS REPAID DURING HIS LONG ILLNESS, IN THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF PEOPLE TOOK CARE OF HIM. MANY REMARKABLE NURSES GAVE HIM A LEVEL OF CARING THAT ECHOED THE GENEROUS SPIRIT THAT HE LIVED DURING HIS LIFETIME.

SOME OF THOSE WHO LOVED AND ADMIRER MELVIN FRIEDMAN, MAY HAVE SAID GOODBYE TO HIM TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN HE COULD NO LONGER RESPOND, WHEN THAT SHARP MIND SUCCUMBED TO PARKINSON'S AND ALZHEIMA. BUT TO MAKE THE DAY MEANINGFUL, WE MUST LEAP FROM RECENT MEMORY AND RETURN TO A PAST TO REMEMBER MELVIN FRIEDMAN, A VIBRANT, BRILLIANT MAN, WHO SUCCEEDED IN HIS CAREER AND WAS GENEROUS AND GIVING AND HONORED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM.

EMVJ LJS