

## Testament to Mike Farrell

I've thought a lot about Mike Farrell's death last Friday at the young age of 61. When I arrived at his funeral and saw so many of my colleagues there, I thought to myself, "I hope when I die my funeral is not just full of lawyers." My own sentiments took me aback. Why, when I enjoy my work so much, would I not want to be surrounded by others who share my passion for the law when my own life has ended?

When I entered the building and listened to the words spoken by Mike's priest, I was reminded of the amazing community in which we lawyers exist. I heard attorneys who had battled with Mike in Court discussing how they could help by taking on and finishing up his cases for free. I saw and heard judges and lawyers praying. I heard Jeff Sliz softly and sweetly sing every stanza of Amazing Graze.

I could not help but think how strange it is to be in a church filled with lawyers. In our daily lives which are filled with so much stress, conflict and tragedy, we rarely speak to each other of spiritual matters. Yet, there we were together in church, singing, praying, and thinking not only about Mike's work, but about his life and what he meant to us.

What a testament to Mike Farrell that so many busy lawyers and judges took time from their busy schedules to draw together in a church, quietly remembering his life, his friendship and his value to our community ... not just as a lawyer, but as our friend.

I left Mike's funeral with an overwhelming sense of kinship and community.

Therefore, my dear sisters and brothers "in law", I hope and pray that when I pass away from here, you will come and send me off. I can think of no better way to leave this world.

Denise Rainwater Griffin