

Chamber awards citizens

The Lebanon/Marion County Chamber of Commerce named the late Keith George as Citizens of the Year at the annual banquet held Monday at the Masonic Temple. Others awards were: Ed Marrett, recognized for initiating local involvement in the Kentucky Certified Cities program; Bill Mattingly, Outstanding Businessman; Betty Wethington, Outstanding Emergency Services Personnel of the Year Award; Jane Higdon, President's Award; Joe Spalding, Outstanding Agribusinessman of the Year Award; David Clements, Outstanding Chamber Member Award; and Lynn D. Farris, Outstanding Educator.

10 Years Ago

January 17, 1990

Migrants seek jobs

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is making an effort to bring migrant labor from Tepic, Mexico, to Kentucky to help in cutting and housing tobacco. They are experienced in setting, housing, etc., and are interested in coming to Kentucky to help here.

Gloria Elizabeth George, 88

Mrs. Gloria Elizabeth George, 88, Lebanon, died Friday, June 19, 2009, at her residence.

Mrs. George was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Clairton, Penn., and was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Lebanon.

Gloria opened her heart and home to so many people. Not only was she a wonderful mother to her nine children but she was a second mother to many nieces and nephews who considered her home their home.

She was preceded in death by: her loving and devoted husband of 46 years, Dr. Eli George Sr.; a son, Keith A. George; parents, Albert Charles and Catherine Owen George; four brothers, Fred, George A., Les and Martin George; and a sister, Jean Thomas.

Survivors include: six sons, Eli (Laura) George Jr. of Louisville, Kenneth (Kathy) George of Lebanon, Kevin George and Stephen (Kathy) George, all of Louisville, Charles (Mary Rose) George of Lebanon and Thomas (Laura) George of Louisville; two daughters, Linda George (John



GEORGE

McGeeney) of Louisville and Gloria Jean George of Lebanon; a daughter-in-law, Michele M. George of Jeffersonville, Ind.; a brother, Albert George of Clairton, Penn.; four sisters,

Munda Essey of Monessen, Penn., Vicki Khalil of Clairton, Penn., Gina Naiser of Louisville and Kay Chleboski of Gibsonia, Penn.; 25 grandchildren and 24 1/2 great-grandchildren.

The funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. June 22 at St. Augustine Catholic Church with burial in the church cemetery. Rev. Jerry Bell officiated.

Pallbearers were grandchildren, John Polin, Stephen, David, Erik, Michael, Charles, II, and Andrew George and Daniel McGeeney as casket bearers and Elizabeth, Mary, Elliot, Sarah, Shannon, Travis, Jessica, Chrissy, William, Joseph, Christopher and Patrick George, Aimee Gilmet, Layla Musselman and Catherine, Teresa and Sarah McGeeney.

Bosley Funeral Home, Lebanon, was in charge of arrangements.

Enterprise obituaries
are posted on the Internet
www.lebanonenterprise.com

Make a Difference? 15 1.
Family Issues 78 (1994).

Note: Ms. Wise is the Vice-Chair of the KBA Family Law Section. She recently tendered this article for publication in the KBA Family Law Section Newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON STEPHEN GEORGE

This section of the Newsletter is set out to honor a distinguished attorney who practices extensively in the Domestic Relations area, and who has at least ten years of extensive experience in the area of Family Law.

This issue's SPOTLIGHT is on Stephen George. Stephen is known to be very gentlemanly and knowledgeable. He was asked information about his background, about his practice, and his ambitions. When he was asked about his family, his siblings,

school and board involvement, Mr. George answered that he is 46 years old and married to Kathy George, who is employed at Assumption High School. He has two children, Stephen Jr., who is a senior at St. X., and David, a freshman at St. X. He has been active in his church (St. Raphael Catholic Church) and his children's schools—he has coached many sports at St. Raphael, and HYR, and was the Assistant Athletic Director and the Athletic Director at St. Raphael.

Stephen has utilized his ability to be a very compassionate and caring person to help others in various other ways, as well. He was the vice-president of the National Board of Directors of the Dream Factory. Additionally, for six years he co-chaired a golf tournament, which was a fund-raiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Stephen came from a family of nine children, and was born in Lebanon, Kentucky.

He attended St. Joseph Prep in Bardstown until it closed in 1968, and then was transferred to St Xavier High School where he lived with two of his brothers who were students at Bellarmine College while he finished high school. Stephen was the captain of the golf team his senior year at St. X., and graduated from St. X. in 1970.

Actually, he was so good in golf that he attended the University Of Louisville on a golf scholarship. While at the University, Mr. George served on the student government, and he was also president of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau. 1974 was the year that Stephen graduated from U of L. He is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership fraternity. Stephen attended the University of Louisville School of Law and graduated in December 1976, then was sworn in as an attorney in spring of 1977.

When Mr. George was asked about his

experience of clerking and how he became involved in the Family Law practice, he replied: "While in law school, I clerked for my brother, Eli J. George. When I graduated from law school, I went into practice with my brothers Eli and Kevin. I have been a sole practitioner (now associated with my brother Kevin) since 1984. I began my concentration in family law almost immediately. It was our intention to have lawyers who concentrated in specific areas in order to develop an expertise and to make the office run as efficiently as possible. Our firm had a very strong domestic relations practice and a strong personal injury practice. My brother Kevin concentrated in the personal injury area of the practice, and I concentrated on the family law practice, and it has been the principal area of my practice ever since."

Stephen discussed his thoughts about Family Law, and explained: "I am often asked how I

can stand practicing family law. I enjoy the practice; and I particularly enjoy being able to help people when they need it most. I have been told by clients that I have a very calming effect on them, and in the very emotional domestic matters, I think that provides a real service to my clients. I am lucky that I am able to enjoy what I do."

When asked what he enjoyed about the Family Court practice, Mr. George said: "The best thing about family court, in my opinion, is that the judges deciding the cases want to be there." Mr. George spoke about the trauma that one's divorcing clients go through and said that the experts tell us that divorce is the second most traumatic event in a person's life, behind the death of a loved one. Stephen then quickly added: "though I have never been divorced, I think we need to understand what our clients are going through, and how emotional they become. Judge Jim Shake put it best, when

asked to compare criminal cases to divorce cases: 'In a criminal case, you have basically bad people on their best behavior. In a divorce case, you have basically good people on their worst behavior.' I think it is our obligation to help our clients get on their best behavior."

Asked if he had any advice or tips for attorneys, Stephen said he thinks that it is equally important for lawyers to act professional and civilly toward one another. He said that he thinks if lawyers have a good relationship with each other, it will increase the chances of a settlement in the case, which is, he explained, virtually always better than a trial.

Stephen said that he feels that it is imperative that the lawyer knows his or her case and his or her client. He continued: "We have all heard before that there is no substitute for preparation, and I certainly agree with that."

Over the years, Stephen has spoken at many seminars on domestic relations issues through the Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys. In order for the participants to obtain CLE credit, the speakers must prepare handouts. One speaker whom Stephen observed, and described was Judge John Potter, who was speaking at the seminar on his views from the bench. Mr. George stated that Judge Potter's handout consisted of a sketch of his bench, and on the bench was a notebook. Stephen continued: "Judge Potter's advice was simple: judges like trial notebooks."

Stephen was asked his views about the mandatory Disclosure Statement, exhibits, and to describe any "pet peeves" or difficult areas of Family Law. He answered: "I am a big proponent of exhibits, particularly on financial issues. I think it makes it much easier to prepare a client for testimony, and for the client to testify, with

exhibits. I also believe it makes it easier for the judge. The judge's dockets are huge, and the more prepared lawyers are, the easier it is for the judge to render a decision."

For the parties, Stephen said, the emotional toll of a divorce case is often greater than the financial toll. He said that he tells his clients that once they are sure that a divorce is what they want, the best thing they can do is get it over with. He stated that he needs the client's help in accumulating the information, and thinks the new Mandatory Case Disclosure Statement is helpful to compile and exchange that information. In addressing the "pet peeve" issue, he responded: "My pet peeve, if you want to call it that, is that many lawyers do not know how to settle cases. There are, unquestionably, cases that can not be settled. However, I think, as lawyers, we need to know where we want to go to settle a case,

and get there as quickly as possible."

He continued: "The inexperienced lawyer should not hesitate to ask an experienced domestic relations practitioner for help. In my 21 years of practice, I have never had anyone turn me down when I have asked a question. The discussion of ideas and issues often is the seed from which an innovative argument is developed."

Regarding difficult areas, Stephen advised: "One of the most difficult areas of our practice seems to be preparation of QDRO's. Do not hesitate to contact the plan administrator and request a form. I always submit my proposed QDRO to the plan administrator for approval before I submit it to court. Rarely will the plan administrator be uncooperative. When we get it right, it makes their job easier, so they also have a vested interest in helping us."

For those of you who know his family, Stephen's father was a

very genteel man, and quite a legend. Stephen spoke of him saying, "My father was a doctor in a small town. He retired in 1981 and died in 1988. Still, some of his former patients bring vegetables to my mother. That's how they would pay my dad, and they thought so much of him that they continue to do that. I think there could be no greater legacy."

Stephen is known for his compassion, dedication, and

wisdom. In interviewing him, it is easy to tell why he has earned such a reputation. When asked if he has any other ambition than that of a genteel attorney, he said, simply, that he would love to be a family court judge. If Mr. George does endeavor to become a family court judge, he would become one of the very dedicated and knowledgeable Family Court Judges, and we would be honored to have him as our Judge

Editor's note: Stephen was recommended for a Spotlight. As an aside, your editor notes that Stephen is extremely deserving of the Spotlight, and that, growing up, your editor and her family lived six houses down the street from Stephen and his family. Stephen's father was your editor's family's Doctor-- my mother was a classmate of Stephen's father,-- she noted that Stephen's father, Eli, always had good manners, was always polite, calm and quite;-- your editor's father reiterated this and noted that Stephen's father was a "hard worker", and great Doctor, and that he even made house calls.

KBA

Family Law Section

Newsletter

December 1998

Editor: Catherine Spalding

Board Members: Amelia Adams, David Broderick, Walter Cato Jr., Judge Mary Corey, Phyllis Deeb, James Dinwiddie, Judge Ellen Ewing, Joe Fowler, William Hoge III, Susan McCray, John R. McGinnis, Alan Slyn, Elise Givhan Spainhour, Wallace Spalding III, William Tinsley, Professor Marlin Volz, Jo Ann Wise and Catesby Woodford

Stephen George
P. 30

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Opinion

The Lebanon Enterprise

Wednesday, April

George Salem Jr. was a giant in many ways

TRAVELS WITH CHARLIE

CHARLES PEARL



George Salem Jr. was a person everyone around here looked up to. He was six-foot-six in high school.

I don't remember any other six-foot-six athletes in Marion County in the early 1960s.

George, an end on the Lebanon High football team, was an excellent receiver. I remember him reaching out and catching a touchdown pass with one hand. The pass came from his close friend, quarterback Ike Owen. It seems as if there were quite a few Owen-to-Salem completions and touchdown passes.

They were members of the Class of 1961 at LHS.

George was a good basketball player, too. I remember the infamous Elizabethtown game in LHS gym. The Yellowjackets led most of the way, but fell behind in the closing minutes, or seconds.

Then someone got tackled and all hell broke loose. Some players from both sides were ejected and suspended for a few games.

Didn't an LHS player get bopped over the head with a purse or umbrella, compliments of an irate E'town woman?

Once things calmed down, I remember LHS Principal Charlie Martin taking the microphone and talking about how disappointed he was that such an outstanding game

had turned into a free-for-all.

LHS lost the game. I don't think George was suspended.

After high school, he received an academic/athletic scholarship to Dartmouth College, an Ivy League school in Hanover, New Hampshire.

He didn't stay long. Dartmouth was too far away from Lebanon, from Kentucky, from family and friends, from his high school sweetheart, Pat Teissler, who would become his wife.

George settled in Louisville and became a well-known defense attorney in Kentucky. While living in Frankfort, I saw him on several occasions and our conversations always took us quickly back to our hometown, Lebanon.

Then I saw him in Lexington's Rupp Arena in March 1993, just after the Marion County High Knights had eliminated Louisville Male in the semifinal round. He was thrilled. He also was extremely concerned about a younger brother, Michael, who was fighting liver cancer.

George was devastated when Michael died on July 31, 1994. His father had died the same month.

George Jr.'s birthday was July 31.

We talked several times after Michael's death. He said Michael found out that he had cancer on July 31, 1992.

"And he died exactly two years later, on my birthday," George Jr. said. "He had a tough time. Nobody should have to go out like that. Yet he fought on and on. Fortunately, in the end, he went out without much difficulty."

In a November 1994 letter, George told me that he and Ralph Hacker had recently purchased the major interest in radio station

WVLK-AM and FM in Lexington.

"I am very excited about this," he wrote. "As a child, I remember sitting around the breakfast table listening to a morning show that Happy Chandler's daughter, Mimi, had on WVLK.

"As you know, WVLK is the flagship station of University of Kentucky athletics, and my involvement in the station will permit me to closely follow UK football and basketball."

He said Hacker is the president of HMH Broadcasting Inc., the parent company of WVLK, "and I am pleased to say that I am the vice president. I have always had a great interest in the media, and I am now excited to be a part of it.

"I ran into Anthony Epps at the football game Saturday, and I am pleased to see how well he has matured both personally and as a basketball player. I get rave reviews about his performance on the court. All of Marion County should be very proud of Anthony."

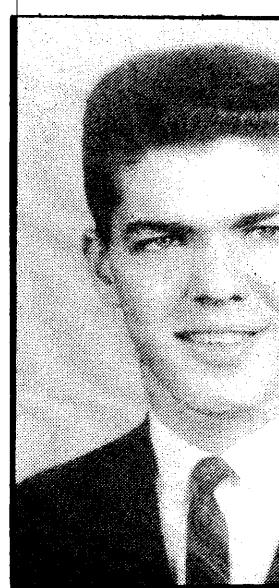
He followed the Wildcats to Hawaii and he sent to his hometown paper an interview that he had conducted with Anthony Epps.

Last summer George mailed me a post card from Italy. He was there to watch the UK basketball team, and his words were all positive – about life, the Wildcats and Anthony Epps.

He never mentioned anything about having prostate cancer. And when Michael was battling cancer, George Jr. also knew he had an uphill fight with cancer.

But he didn't want to burden his wonderful mother, Louise Salem of Lebanon, with any additional sorrow.

He finally told her on Easter Sunday 1995, but he wanted to keep his health problems private. She honored his request.



GEORGE SALEM JR.

So I was shocked two years ago when Akie George told me her son Jr. didn't have long to live.

In Louisville's Jewish community, he watched the UK Wildcat basketball team. Lebanon's Anthony Epps was the 1996 NCAA basketball champion.

And one week after the Wildcat County honored hometown hero Anthony Epps with a huge pep rally, one of my favorite athletic hero's died. George Jr. was a giant.

I can still see him holding that touchdown pass in his hand.

Years later, I found out that George Salem Jr. was a person.

"He was very easy-going," Louise Salem, on a recent morning. "He was a good man. He loved the Lebanon Community Church, and he thanked his family for all the prayers said for Michael."

She said the suffering he had to endure was "something I wouldn't want the world to suffer the way my son suffered. God was good to him."

George Salem Jr. was a giant in many ways

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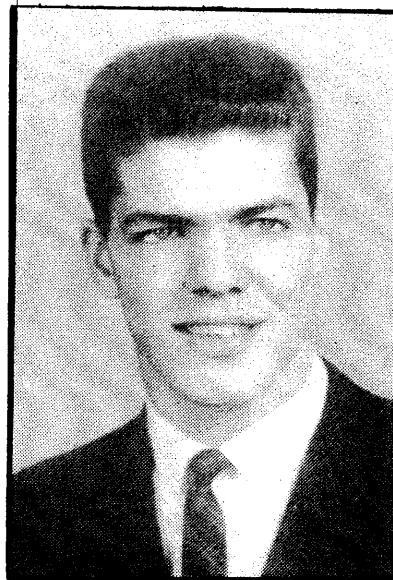
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GEORGE SALEM JR. - 1961

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In Louisville's Jewish Hospital, he watched the UK Wildcats and Lebanon's Anthony Epps capture the 1996 NCAA basketball championship.

And one week after Marion County honored hometown hero Anthony Epps with a huge parade and pep rally, one of my childhood athletic hero's died. George Salem Jr. was a giant.

I can still see him hauling in that touchdown pass with one hand.

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