

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
JUDGE JAMES M. "JIM" MEHAFFY, JR.  
NOVEMBER 23, 1940 – FEBRUARY 2, 2022



FUNERAL SERVICE  
JUNE 8, 2022  
11:00 A.M.  
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
680 CALDER STREET  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn      “How Great Thou Art”      (Please join in singing)

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy pow’r through-out the universe displayed!

#### *Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! *Refrain*

## Solemn Anthems

I am the Resurrection and I am the Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
1 who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

*The Celebrant says the following Collect, first saying*

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And also with you.

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Jim. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (61:1-3)**

*Marlisa Lopez*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.

*People*          Thanks be to God.

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians**  
**(15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58)**

*Bo Weinbaum*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Solo**

“Amazing Grace”

Jeff Courts, Bagpipes

**The Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14**

*The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse*

*(All stand)*

*Gospeler*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

*Gospeler*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Homily**

The Honorable Rev. Keith F. Giblin

**Hymn 42**

“Now the day is over”

*Merrial*

(Blue Hymnal 82; Please join in singing.)

**The Apostles’ Creed** *(please stand)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers**

*The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

And also with you.

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People,*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever  
and ever. Amen.

For our brother Jim, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the Resurrection and I am the Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Jim, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend, comfort us in our sorrow.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*Celebrant*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Jim, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

## **The Commendation**

*Celebrant* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
*People* Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing,  
but life everlasting.

### *The celebrant continues*

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### *Celebrant and people*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

### *Celebrant*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jim. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn** “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

### ***Refrain***

Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,  
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;  
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;  
His day is marching on. **Refrain**

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;  
O, be swift, my soul to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on. **Refrain**

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;  
as he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free  
while God is marching on. **Refrain**

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon*            Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
*People*            Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **Postlude**

“Crown Imperial”

William Walton





***Jim Mehaffy, Jr.***, beloved son, husband, father, brother, mentor, and friend; consummate gentleman; defender of the underdog; world traveler; yellow dog Democrat; necktie enthusiast; amateur musician; pilot of planes, trains, and automobiles; jumper of tugboat wakes; and slinger of persiflage, died February 2, 2022.

As the oldest of six children of Jim and Mary Alice Mehaffy, Jim often said that he valiantly “shouldered the family burden of a legal career, alcoholism, neurological disease, and being a lifelong resident of Southeast Texas,” for which he felt his siblings should be deeply grateful. Near the end of his life, Jim said, “I want everyone to know that I’m not just accepting death, but embracing it,” recalling a long life filled with love, deep connections, adventure, and late-in-life peace and self-acceptance.

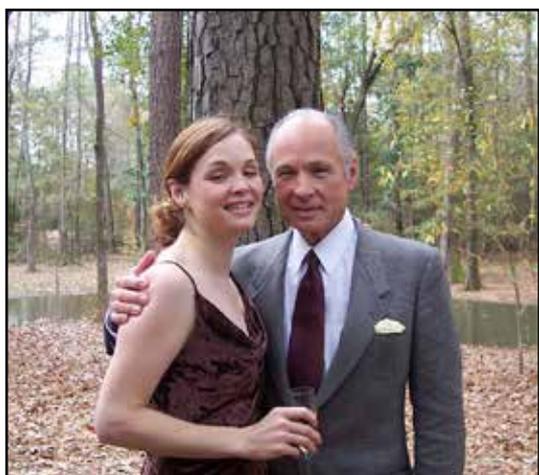
After a distinguished career as a plaintiff's attorney in Jefferson County, in 1994 he ran for Judge of the 58th District Court in Beaumont, was elected and served there until his retirement in 2006. His career accomplishments include conceiving and implementing the first electronic filing system in Texas, serving as President of the Jefferson County Bar Association, receiving the coveted Blackstone Award, given to one lawyer each year in recognition of the highest ethical and professional standards, being awarded the Ken Lewis Texas Bar Foundation Award for Professionalism, receiving the statewide Texas Bar Journal's "Best Article" award, and founding and serving as first president of the local Inn of Court, which members named after his late wife Michelle F. Mehaffy.

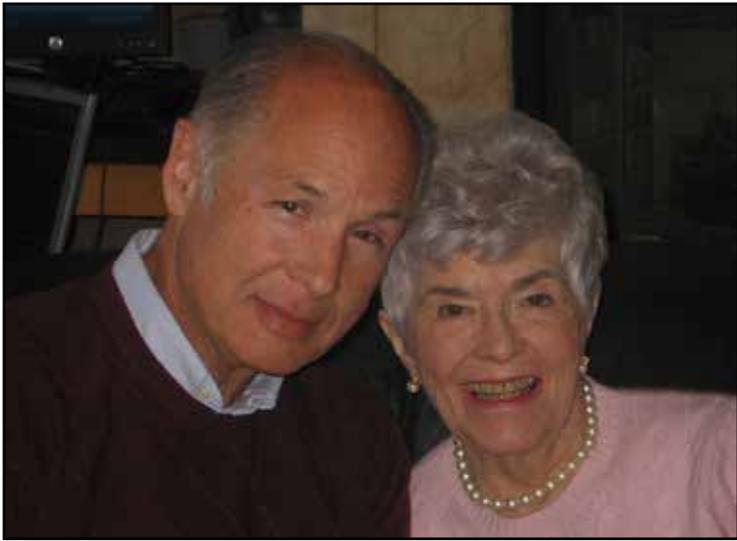
Jim's battle against Parkinson's Disease, which he waged mostly by ignoring it, was a true inspiration. With a force of will that surprised no one, he continued to travel, volunteer, and remain an active force in the community, attending the lunchtime meetings of AA that sustained him in his sobriety.

Jim is survived by his wife, Maris Mehaffy, of Beaumont; by his children Elizabeth Winslow and her husband Thomas Winslow of New York; Thomas Mehaffy and his partner Xiangyun Li of Austin; Patrick Mehaffy of Austin; and Haylee Faggard of Beaumont; by siblings George Mehaffy of Oklahoma; Ann Mehaffy of Oregon; Molly Mehaffy of New Mexico; Patrick Mehaffy of New Mexico; and Michael Mehaffy of Oregon. He is also survived by his grandchildren Tess and Liam McMillan of New York. He is predeceased by wife, Michelle "Mickey" Mehaffy; his parents James Mehaffy, Sr. and Mary Alice Mehaffy; and his cousin Mitchell Adams. Jim's family is deeply grateful for the loving care and friendship of Marlyn Garcia, who became our chosen family over the last year of Jim's life.

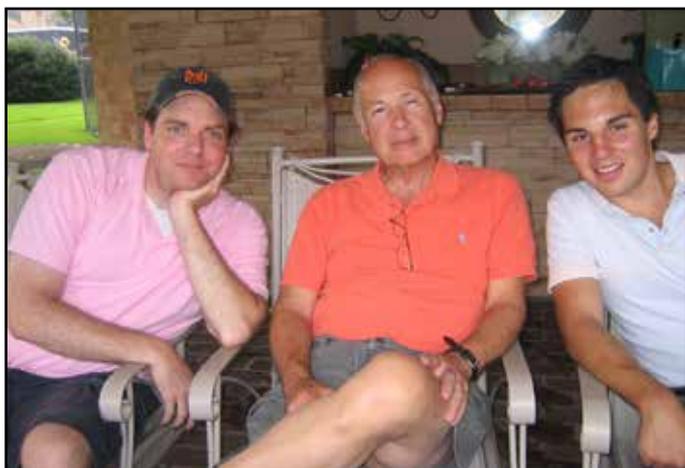
The family hopes that friends and loved ones will honor Jim's memory by carrying on his sense of fun, spirit of community, and commitment to service to others.

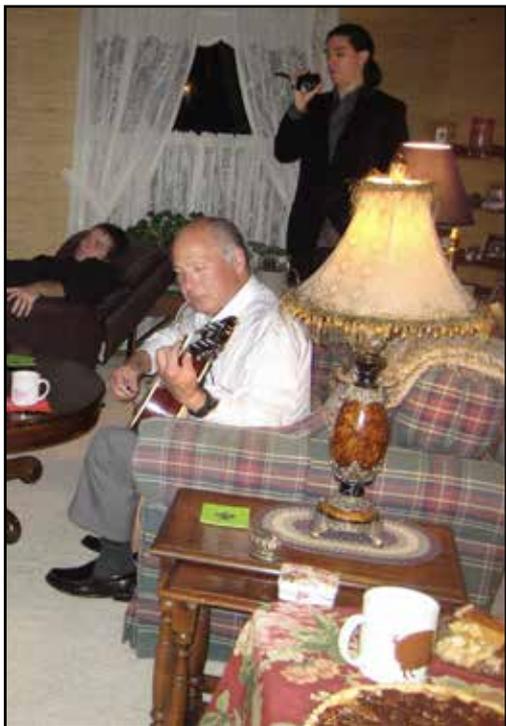
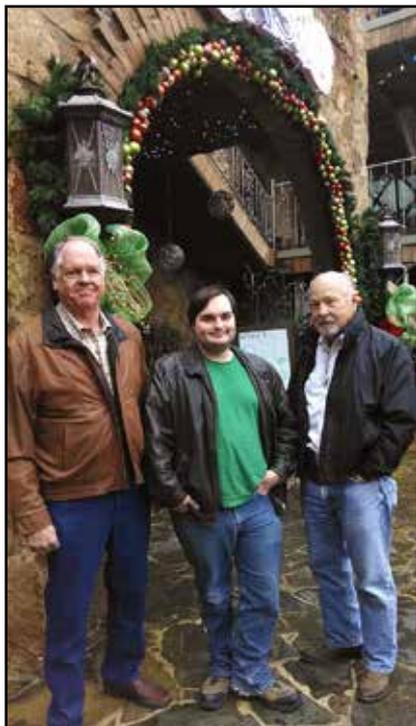






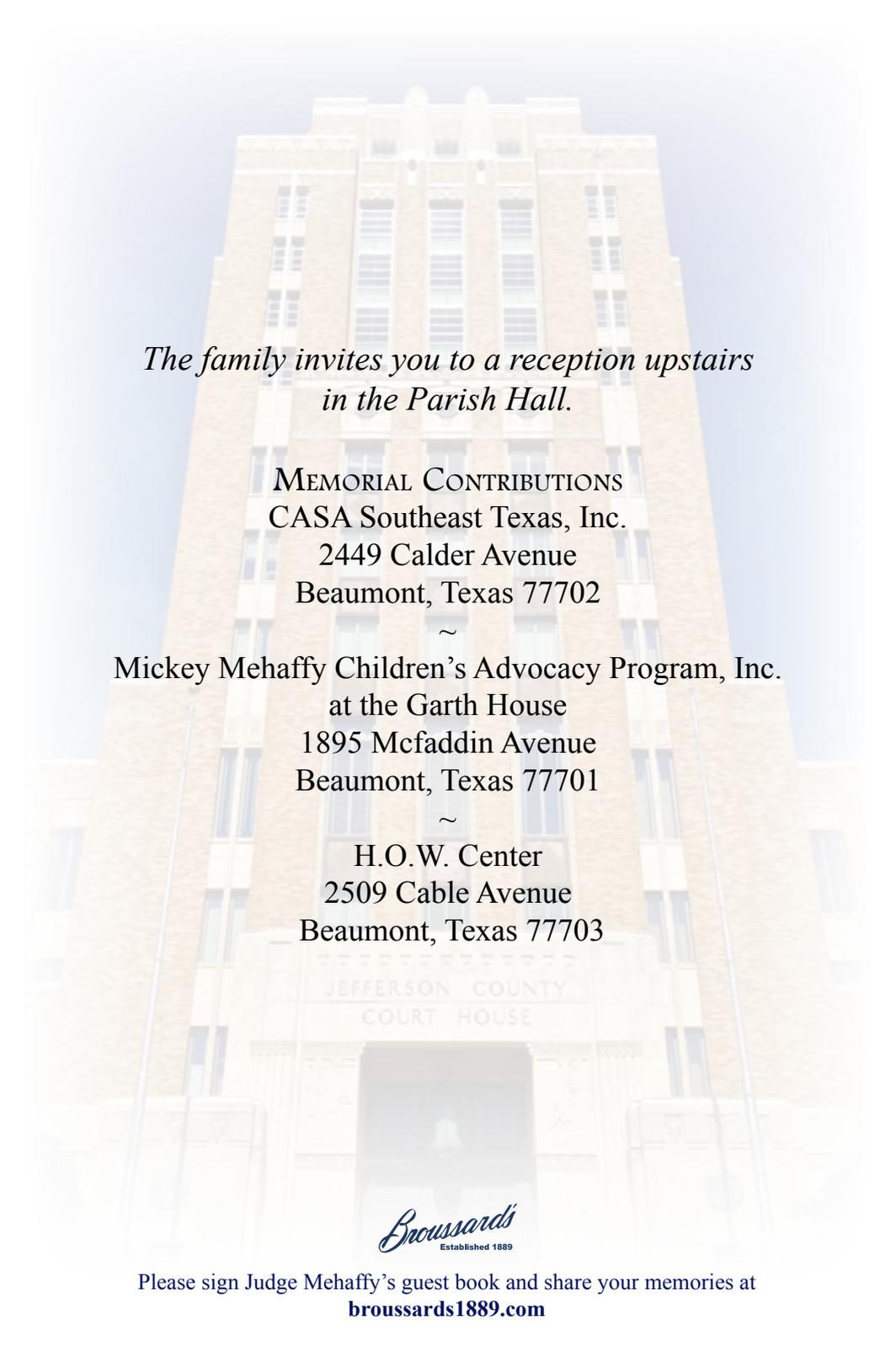












*The family invites you to a reception upstairs  
in the Parish Hall.*

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
CASA Southeast Texas, Inc.  
2449 Calder Avenue  
Beaumont, Texas 77702

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Mickey Mehaffy Children's Advocacy Program, Inc.  
at the Garth House  
1895 Mcfaddin Avenue  
Beaumont, Texas 77701

~

H.O.W. Center  
2509 Cable Avenue  
Beaumont, Texas 77703

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Please sign Judge Mehaffy's guest book and share your memories at  
[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)