

your finger is surrounded by the water. However, as you remove your finger from the glass, you'll find water on your finger. Therefore, you did make a difference in the amount of water in the glass. Imagine the difference all 10 fingers would make.

I'd like to share a recent bittersweet event in my family. I don't wish to evoke sadness or sympathy, but rather inspiration and strength.

As I write this, I have just returned from the funeral of a cousin who had been paralyzed by a diving accident at the age of 17, some 25 years ago. His parents, my aunt and uncle, had been managing his daily care for all of those 25 years. Having been married 50 years, that time amounted to half of their married life. Although some couples would have been torn apart by such daily sacrifice, these two remarkable people remained steadfast in their love and devotion to each other and their youngest son.

As I made the six-hour trip back to Tennessee from Mississippi, I reflected on the past few days, and I couldn't seem to get one picture out of my mind. It was the sight of my aunt and uncle holding hands under the tent at the cemetery. The strength that they exuded in this very difficult time had a life-

changing effect on me. Even though volunteering with the Tennessee Court Reporters Association has been a wonderful experience for me, I had started to lose my enthusiasm and wondered about the efficacy of my role. Although most would consider a funeral to be somber and emotionally draining — and it was those things for me — watching my family come together and hold each other up gave me more inspiration than any other event in my life.

I share this experience with you because I consider not only TCRA but the reporting community as a whole to be a family. This profession is small in number, and only other people in the profession understand the trials and tribulations we have, as well as value the accomplishments we achieve. We must maintain our strength as an association to accomplish the goals and to set the standards for this profession. We must stand together and join hands to support each other.

This year, each and every member, one person at a time, can make a difference within TCRA, the legal system, and the entire state of Tennessee. Please volunteer your time, your money, and whatever you have to give. It is an invaluable experience that will lead you to inspire others. In the near future,

you'll be called on to let your voice be heard with respect to licensure. I hope I've inspired some of you to, indeed, take the opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the TCRA family. I dedicate this article to Sara Nell and Dale Zebert, my inspiration for writing it.

Kathy Zebert, RPR, is president of the Tennessee Court Reporters Association. This article appeared, in slightly different form, in TCRA's Volunteer Reporter.

MEDIA WATCH

LEGALINK, VITAC PARENT COMPANY SOLD

Merrill Corp. has acquired WordWave, parent company of LegaLink, VITAC, and WordWave International. Merrill is a global provider of technology-enabled services for legal, financial, real estate, and other markets. The company has more than 4,400 people in 60 locations.

WordWave was owned by Berkshire Partners LLC and Highland Capital Partners, both Massachusetts-based private equity firms. Terms of the transaction were not announced.

STENO BRIEFS

You Just Don't ...

BY JOSEPH A. MILLIKAN

My theory principle for the following set of phrases is SKWROU for "you just don't."

you just don't believe	SKWR O U BL
you just don't believe so	SKWR O U BL S
you just don't mean to say	SKWR O U PL TS
you just don't recall	SKWR O U RL
you just don't recall the	SKWR O U RL T
you just don't recognize	SKWR O U R Z
you just don't recollect	SKWR O U R B G
you just don't remember	SKWR O U R
you just don't remember the	SKWR O U R T

The theory principle for the "You don't" phrases is KWR O U.

you don't believe	KWR O U BL
you don't believe so	KWR O U BL S
you don't mean	KWR O U PL
you don't mean to say	KWR O U PL TS
you don't recall	KWR O U RL
you don't recall the	KWR O U RL T
you don't recognize	KWR O U R Z
you don't recollect	KWR O U R B G
you don't remember	KWR O U R
you don't remember the	KWR O U R T
you don't think	KWR O U PBG
you don't think so	KWR O U PBG S

Joseph A. Millikan is from Miami, Fla.

DAUGHTER OF SLAIN COURT REPORTER SUES SHERIFF

The daughter of Julie Ann Brandau has filed suit against a Fulton County sheriff and eight deputies, blaming them for the death of her mother. Brandau, a court reporter, was killed during a shooting spree in March 2005 in an Atlanta courthouse.

Christina Sholte's lawsuit alleges that the sheriff and deputies did not provide adequate protection for the defendant, Brian Nichols, who is charged with the shootings. He is charged with overpowering a deputy, taking her gun, and killing Brandau; the presiding judge, Rowland Barnes; and two others. Nichols was at the courthouse attending a hearing on a rape charge against him. According to Sholte, the killings could have been prevented if the sheriff and his deputies would have responded to information received about the danger posed by Nichols.

Judge Barnes' wife, Claudia Barnes, filed a wrongful death suit in October

against the sheriff and several of the deputies.

Reported in the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* on January 31.

SUPREME COURT SUSPENDS REPORTER FOR UNTIMELINESS

A court reporter in Arkansas has been suspended for continually turning in transcripts late. She is to remain on probation until January 2007 to give her time to catch up, according to court officials. The court reporter cites work overload as the reason for the delay. Many of the attorneys who have worked with her described her as a hard worker whose work is above reproach.

HIGH-TECH ENABLES EMPLOYEES

An article in the *Society for Human Resource Management Online* reported that 36 percent of the working population uses some sort of assistive technology in the workplace. It discussed the different resources available to assist those who are blind or have poor eyesight, are deaf

or hard of hearing, and have other disabilities. Many companies mistakenly believe that accommodating those with disabilities will burn a hole in the company's pocket, but there more than 2,000 companies in the marketplace that provide assistive technologies. Many government programs and states offer loan programs and grants to businesses in need of assistive technology. Medicare covers those with disabilities over age 65 and the federal government also offers tax incentives to businesses to help defray these costs.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT D. CHURCH

Former Associate Member Robert D. Church, who retired last year after more than 30 years with the Mississippi Judicial College, died November 1 in Oxford, Miss., after a brief illness.

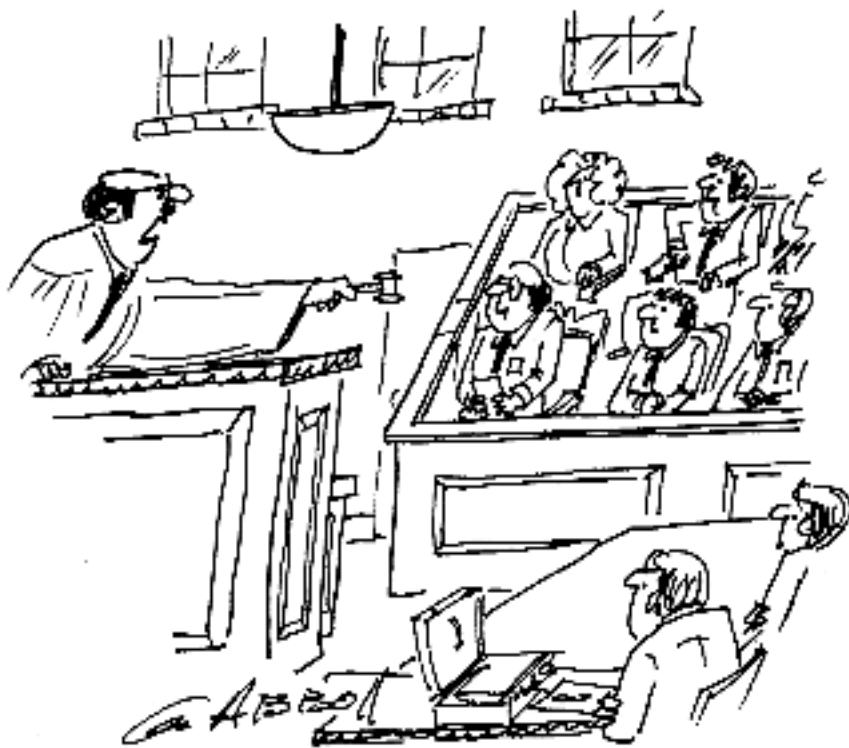
Although Bob worked with many of the professional legal associations in Mississippi during his tenure with the Judicial College, he had a special place in his heart for the court reporters of the Mississippi Court Reporters Association. Bob traveled to many NCRA conventions over the years and made many court reporter friends from around the country. He was an advocate for continuing education for Mississippi court reporters and insisted that the top speakers from the NCRA conventions come to Mississippi to educate our reporters as an integral part of Mississippi's annual court reporter seminars.

From my first MCRA meeting in 1982, I will always picture Bob patrolling the hallways and herding all the socializing court reporters to the start of the seminars, adamant that we stay on schedule.

Bob was married to Juanita England for 54 years. She preceded him in death. They had a son, Robert Jr., and the apple of Bob's eye was his granddaughter, Caroline England Church.

Bob has passed away, but he will always be loved and fondly remembered by the court reporters of Mississippi and from around the country.

Cay T. Wisner
Biloxi, Miss.



"Just read the verdict. We don't give you a drum roll."