

Howard Twiggs

1932 – 2010

In Memoriam

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.aspx?n=howard-twiggs&pid=140310196>

A premier trial lawyer, Howard Twiggs was elected and served as President of the **American Association for Justice** (formerly The Association of Trial Lawyers of America) in 1996–97. He formerly served as President of the **North Carolina Advocates for Justice** (formerly The North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers), where he has been a member of the Board of Directors for 34 years. In 2008, he was elected President Emeritus of NCAJ.

Members of these two organizations reflect on his life and legacy:

With utmost sadness we inform you of the passing of our beloved friend, mentor, and past president Howard Twiggs. Howard passed away this morning in Raleigh, NC. Our AAJ hearts are breaking. A lawyer's lawyer, a legislator's legislator, a leader of leaders, we mourn the passing of a seeker of justice and one of the world's sweetest people. Howard's joy of life infected everyone he ever met. He made us better because he believed we could be better. Howard's passion for service and his absolute commitment to the justice system had no rival.

~ Anthony Tarricone, President, AAJ
~ Tom Henderson, Chief Executive Officer, AAJ

Howard was our eighth President and a past President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He was a giant of the plaintiffs' bar and a constant, reliable source of sage advice and inspirational leadership to our organization. He will be greatly missed.

~ David Pishko
President, NC Advocates for Justice

[We] toast a good man and a wonderful life.

~ Mike Daisley

Today we lost the most important member of our organization and one of the most important members ever, Howard Twiggs. My great friend and mentor suffered a heart attack after his daily workout at the Y here in Raleigh and was found dead. I loved him dearly. He was President of the Academy, President Emeritus of NCAJ and President of ATLA. Howard hardly ever missed a board or executive committee meeting and his wisdom guided us for decades. He was great plaintiff's lawyer, a devoted opponent of the death penalty and fierce fighter for rights for criminal defendants, a deeply committed advocate for civil rights for all people, a tenacious and forward thinking legislator and a champion for the underdog his entire life. Most importantly, Howard was maybe the finest, kindest, warmest and most supportive man I ever met. He never met a stranger, never turned down a request for assistance and never failed to fight a fight that needed to be fought while always maintaining his gentlemanly and professional manner. His love and passion were contagious. I have a deep hole in my heart today as I know all of us that ever came into contact with Howard share. For the ones of you that never met Howard, just let me say, you might not have known him but your professional life is better today because of his life. I hope all of you will hold his memory in your heart today and always remember this wonderful man who meant so much to so many.

~ Joe Cheshire

We lost the best of us today.

~ Adam Stein

He was just a wonderful lawyer and gentleman in every respect. He always supported me in everything I undertook as a lawyer. He was the one who advocated for me to be the first female president of NCAJ back in a time when this was a huge step. I am crying as I write this. I loved him dearly and will miss him so much.

~ Mary Ann Tally

The Lion of Empathy.

~ Jay Trehy

Howard was a true professional. He was an example of what a lawyer should be. He will be missed.

~ Chuck Alexander

Howard Twiggs was a great man, a great lawyer, and a true inspiration. He's the type of lawyer who made me want to be a lawyer, and he made me think of the practice of law as a noble profession. In addition to his unending and unselfish commitment to protecting all people's rights in all aspects of the civil and criminal justice system, he maintained an elevated tone of advocacy that seems to be slipping further away from our profession. I never got tired of hearing him talk. I never failed to find inspiration in his words. He will always be missed.

~ **Brad Bannon**

Over his distinguished career, Howard may have had many adversaries – in the courtroom or in the legislative halls. However, it is probably fair to say that he had few, if any, enemies and he never met a stranger. He taught us patience when our instincts would lead us to rashness. He was a gentle giant whose genuine warmth, cheerfulness and good humor ultimately enthralled all who came in contact with him – regardless of the circumstances. He was ultimately, one of the rarest of our kind – a beloved lawyer. Like the red/purple/golden glow that fills the horizon immediately after the sun sets, the glow of Howard's memory will lighten and brighten our skies for a long time to come.

~ **Jim Maxwell**

It has been quite a sad day in losing our dear friend, Howard. But we will all find a way to smile again as we think of the many kind things Howard did for us. He inspired us by his example as a proud and talented trial lawyer. And his generosity just overflowed every time he spoke, whether to a group or in individual conversations. My thoughts and prayers especially are with Howard's family and with the members of his law firm, of whom he was so proud and cared about so much.

~ **Mark Holt**

He was a great man and an inspiration. I have posted below the information regarding the visitation, memorial service and memorial gifts that can be made in his honor.

~ **Don Strickland**

Legislator, gentleman, role model and forceful advocate. He was my father's age and friend as well as an advocate for a proper mental health system when he served in the legislature.

~ **Nick Stratas**

A wonderful friend, mentor and example has brightened our lives and enriched us. He will be sorely missed but reverently & warmly remembered.

~ **Wade Byrd**

I did not know Howard well until I spent some time with him last fall. Of course I knew of him and all of his legal and leadership accomplishments, but through my short time with him last fall I was able to understand what a humble servant leader he was. As a fellow sailor of old boats, we had quite the conversation. After coming home from spending some time with him in conversation, I was compelled to type him a letter expressing my gratitude for his hospitality, something I would never do in my normal life. Of course, he did me one better and mailed me a handwritten note expressing his gratitude for meeting me. This is truly the kind of man he was.

~ **Samuel A. Scudder**

This is loss of enormous magnitude to us all. What a great man.

~ **Bob Grant**

Howard Twiggs' family will receive friends at his home at 817 Blenheim Road, Raleigh, North Carolina on Friday, March 5th from 6:00pm until 8:00 pm, and on Sunday, March 7th from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. A memorial service will be held on Monday, March 8th at 3:00 pm at St. Michaels Episcopal Church, 1520 Canterbury Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27608. Following the service a celebration of Howard's life will be held at 4:30pm at the Cardinal Club, 150 Fayetteville Street, 28th floor, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Pound Civil Justice Institute (Howard Twiggs Memorial Fund), 777 Sixth Street, N.W., Washington DC 20007; to the Capitol YMCA in Raleigh, or to the Wake County SPCA.

The Lion of Empathy