IN MEMORIAM -- JORDAN B. BIERMAN

January 17, 2002

I am honored to speak at this Memorial Service, and I thank Ellen for the opportunity to do so. It was my privilege to have had the friendship of Jordan Bierman for almost 50 years. We first met in our law student days. Jordan cut quite a figure around the law school -- always dapper and impeccably groomed. We struck up a friendship early on. His classmates held him in awe. He had a degree in Chemical Engineering, and you can imagine how impressive that was to a bunch of history and political science majors. He was a brilliant law student who became a brilliant lawyer. We worked together on the law review and socialized as friends do. He invited me to his home, and I met his parents. We played tennis at his parents' club and we lifted a glass from time to time.

After law school, I served in the Army -- the Judge Advocate General Corps -- in Japan and Korea, and it was several years before I saw Jordan again. Shortly after my return from service, he moved my admission to federal practice at the Federal Courthouse in Manhattan where I now have my Chambers as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals. Some lawyers never forgave Jordan for getting me into federal practice. During his speech to the court urging my admission, he spoke with great eloquence, and I think he persuaded the judge that I won the Korean War single-handedly. At any rate the judge granted the motion.

I began a law practice with my father upstate, but on my
trips to the city, I would stop in at Jordan’s office, where he practiced with his father. He always had time for lunch with me. Over the years, we visited regularly and spoke often. Jordan was a very knowledgeable person, and could discuss almost any topic. He was, of course, well schooled in the sciences and was familiar with all manner of technology. His special expertise in the law was intellectual property, but I never ceased to be amazed at his familiarity with all fields of law. He could discuss the latest cases in the New York courts as well as the most recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court. It was always a joy to talk to him.

His clients had great respect for him, and he had close and long-standing relationships with them. The Japanese company, Konica, was one of those clients. Every year he took into his office a young Japanese patent lawyer from that company. Some of his stories about his business trips to Japan were hilarious. He loved to travel, whether for business or pleasure. He was a talented person and maintained an intellectual curiosity during his entire lifetime.

If a friend can be defined as someone who will put up with your mishigas, he was a great friend. He was always ready to listen, to encourage, to praise. He always spoke well of everyone. He was always upbeat, always smiling, always in good humor, always concerned about his friends and family. Even when he was so ill at the end, he continued to inquire about my health and my wife’s health. He was always there for me, and I hope that I was always there for him. When I had surgery, he came upstate to keep me company. When there were important events in
my life such as investitures and children's weddings, he was there. When I lectured on legal subjects, he attended. As to the later events, greater love hath no man than to show up for his friend's speeches. And I always tried to be present for the major events in his life, including his landmark 70th birthday party at the Harmonie Club. When one of my sons needed business advice, Jordan was there. I tried to provide advice and guidance to his son, Daniel.

Jordan was a special person. He was a gentle man. He never did anything that I could criticize him for. He was fortunate in many ways and especially fortunate to have had Ellen at his side when he passed away, for theirs was a particularly loving relationship. I know that she made him happy from the day they first met.

Early on, Jordan wheedled out of me my middle name, and after that he always called me "R. Jeffrey." Sometimes he used "Old Buddy." I cannot believe that I will never again pick up the telephone and hear him speak those words. We were in closer contact in recent years than ever before. I last saw him when he came down to my Chambers for lunch on Monday, November 5th. I introduced him to my law clerks, who later remarked: "What a nice guy!" That is the way he came off to everyone, and that is how he will be remembered. He did not look well at the time of our last visit, and he told me that the doctors were pessimistic but that he would keep fighting. I prayed that I would see him again, but that was not to be.

Jordan was my friend. I loved him. I shall miss him terribly. He will always hold a place in my heart.
1. Tonight before you meet wisdom + charm - top
of profession By diligence + hard work - supported
by caring + loving so well worthy of respect. I'll
though about you. How to talk about JB
2. Man once said - JB is nicest guy in world.
Man who said it was tonight.
3. Seriously - JB is nicest guy in world - always
smiling. Always in good humor, always exp-
live through to make you nervous.
4. Trouble communicating with ordinary people.
5. He hasn't tasted food in a week. JB:
6. It's still tastes the same. PA: I mean I haven't
eaten in 7 days. JB: Force yourself.

5. Known JB since 5th classmate + 40 years ago.
Outstanding student. Impossible undergrad degree
in Ch. E. Best in Intro class. Could determine any
K at once by oral or written.
6. Lot of happy memories of earliest days to-
gether - working in Allen office of 1925/6
in old law school building on William St. taking
time off from studies to play tennis at his club.
our lunches at Ali Tehran restaurant near his
old law office after I went back upstairs to practice.
I lost gob after law school, Uncle Sam called
and I ended up as officer in 1946. Served
overseas in China + Korea and finished bugs
town at Labrador Island. [Virgin of God's Is]

8. While at Nos. 1st. I asked Jordan if he would
move my admission to practice in federal ct.
Had to come to open court. Spe祠 - Won Green
9. Some cases before we were called. I'd be
my lawyer, yet someone locally; 20% off being
satisfied to 70% for back lobbying. So as much
as you can sell off loading platform - where is it?
10. Early in career JB himself decided to take on
a criminal case. Assault, robbery + murder. Told client
try to escape! Tonight we celebrate the 7th of =
11. Vigorous reputation - always winning. The tale
Franklin had quieted all good for some. Complex
outcast + nothing else. He could think of.

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12. 70 is not considered old today, but if Jordan were a car, it would be very hard to find parts for him. For JB, age means nothing. He is 70 today, as he was 70 years ago, which shows how potent the years have been for JB. It is the most common between those who have passed him, as when he and Ellen got married, he bought a motor bed. He called it his "dead end." JB put a mirror over the bed and he used it to shave. I asked Ellen if JB believed in life after death. Doesn't believe in life after death.

15. Last birthday: Bachelor party. Guy jumped out of cake and said, "JB! Would you like some super jelly?" I guess he did. He said, "I'll take this soup." JB put a mirror on the bed, and he used it to shave. I asked Ellen if JB believed in life after death. Doesn't believe in life after death.

16. JB put a mirror on the bed, and he used it to shave. "I'll take this soup," he said. "Now me and Jill turn into a beautiful princess that you can have." But in pocket, kept walking: "Are you crazy? At this age, nobody has walking. Free walking," he said. "No walking,skyrocketing explosives? Do, because it only happens once a year.

18. Today, none of us has to be concerned. They have discovered Viagra. Did you see about fellow who swallowed, stuck in throat, still took? JB, I am happy to be with you here at the Harmonie Club to celebrate your 70th. In my condition, I am happy to be anywhere.

20. This is some club. You are probably the youngest member. The average age is dead. I just saw a guy here order a 3-minute egg, and they made him pay up front.

21. When I came in tonight, a woman was setting in the lobby crying. The lady said: "I have a beautiful home, I just married a young man who loves me and can't do enough for me. We have great sex life. Problem: Can't remember where life.

22. Jordan, you have been a great friend to me over half a century. You have always been there, always been there. Words of love.
13. You attended my investiture, you suffered through my law lectures, you endured some awful places some could not be together when I had my heart problems, you came up to several times to offer words of encouragement, you have given me comfort to one of the powers who needed help. And you really are a strong guy. You still run around playing soft tennis and work out each gym. You recently dragged around some island in Florida for an reality a very septuagenarian. The they should you than only 72 in a week.