Justice Robert D. Glass

Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Robert D. Glass was born in Alabama to a poor family in the segregated Deep South. Unable to afford the required school books, young Robert Glass could not attend school. His formal education did not begin until he was ten years old, when his cousin gave him a set of 4th grade books.

His mother worked for a judge who let her borrow law books for her son to study. Her dream was that one day her son would also become a judge. She knew the importance of a good education. The judge encouraged Robert by taking him to court to observe the proceedings. The two would discuss cases while the elder judge golfed and young Robert served as his caddy.

Robert Glass excelled in his studies and graduated from North Carolina Central University with distinction. Upon graduation, Glass applied to law school but was denied admission because of his race. He brought a lawsuit against that law school and was represented by future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. He won that lawsuit; but in the meantime, he had graduated from the Law School of North Carolina College with honors.

He was the first African American admitted to the North Carolina Bar. In 1962, Attorney Glass moved with his family to Waterbury. In 1967, he became the first African American Juvenile Court Judge in Connecticut. He was later named a Judge of the Superior Court and eventually capped his distinguished career as the first African American Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1987. He passed away in 2001.

Justice Glass was a deeply religious man and a patriotic American. He served his country during World War II, earning several medals as a sergeant in the United States Army. He always carried the Peace Prayer of St. Francis in his wallet as well as a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

At 6 feet 7 inches tall, Robert D. Glass was a giant of a man, both literally and figuratively. When sworn into office as a Justice, he stated that this was not only his mother's dream, but also the American Dream come true. He encouraged all young people to realize their dreams as well, urging them to answer life's challenges with, “Yes, I can! Yes, I can make it”.

www.jud.ct.gov

Dedication Ceremony

The naming of the Justice Robert D. Glass Courthouse

May 19, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
7 Kendrick Avenue
Waterbury, Connecticut
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Program

Welcome
The Administrative Judge for the Judicial District of Waterbury and Past President of the Connecticut Judges Association Judge Salvatore C. Agati

Master of Ceremonies
Judge Charles D. Gill

Invocation
Reverend Thomas W. Mallory
Associate Pastor, Zion Baptist Church

National Anthem
Combined Choir of Zion Baptist Church

Welcome
Attorney Giovanna T. Giardina
President of the Waterbury Bar Association

Remarks
Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, Jr.
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
Mayor Michael Jarjura

Official Citations
Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor
Honorable Denise L. Nappier, State Treasurer
Honorable Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General

Remarks
Michael L. Ferguson, Esq.
Assistant State’s Attorney Magdalene Campos

Unveiling of dedication plaque
Remarks
Mrs. Doris Glass

Waterbury Arts Magnet School Select Chorus
“I Believe I Can Fly”

Benediction
Reverend Dr. S.P. Petteway

Friends of the Honorable Robert D. Glass Committee

Honorable Salvatore C. Agati
Representative David Aldarondo
Representative Jeffrey J. Berger
Honorable Elizabeth A. Bozzuto
Representative Larry B. Butler
Senator Sam S.F. Caligiuri
Assistant State’s Attorney
Magdalena Campos
State’s Attorney John Connelly
Honorable William T. Cremins
Representative Anthony J. D’Amelio
Honorable Joseph W. Doherty
Honorable Edward J. Dolan
Representative William R. Dyson
Attorney Giovanna T. Giardina
(President of Waterbury Bar Association)
Honorable Charles D. Gill
Senator Joan V. Hartley
Attorney William M. Hoey
(Clerk, Waterbury Juvenile Matters Court)
Mayor Michael Jarjura

Honorable Maria Araujo Kahn
John B. Maia
Reverend Thomas W. Mallory
Honorable Paul Matasavage
Honorable Francis M. McDonald, Jr.
Honorable Sheridan L. Moore
Attorney Maurice B. Mosley
Representative Selim G. Noujaim
Police Chief Neil O’Leary
Reverend Dr. Stanley P. Petteway
Senator Andrew W. Roraback
Honorable Dan Shaban
Honorable Barbara J. Sheedy
Attorney William L. Stevens
Attorney Gregory G. St. John
Honorable William J. Sullivan
Honorable Wilson J. Trombley
Honorable Thomas F. (Tim) Upson
Michael R. Venters
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