



William F. Cranna

June 9, 1945 - January 29, 2011

The Honorable William F. Cranna, a renaissance man of great wit, wisdom, and charm, passed away on January 29th, 2011. Bill was born in the Bronx in 1945 to the late James P. Cranna and his surviving mother, Mary Anne Cranna. His parents ventured to Columbia County in 1953 and Bill began a life that would profoundly touch his family and community.

Bill was educated and graduated from St. Mary's Academy, Sienna College, and Pace Law School. His professional career touched many people from every walk of life. In the late 1960's, he was hired to teach math for the Hudson School District, thankfully he taught history. In the 1970's, Bill was instrumental in creating the Alternative Learning Program, a position he was especially proud of, for it changed the lives of many young minds that went on to enjoy successful careers.

Throughout his life, Bill pursued his passion of writing the great American novel that would be forthcoming upon his death. There is none, but that did not stop him from trying to become the next Ernest Hemingway, his literary hero and mentor. He wrote for his pleasure and became a prolific writer of letters. His letters were a special treat to family, friends, and to anyone who celebrated a special occasion. He loved to find the humor in a situation as he exposed the irony.

Bill was an active member of the Hudson Area Library for many years. He believed that a community can only be as successful as its library. He was also a board member and treasurer for Historic Hudson.

After graduating from Pace Law School, Bill began a long association with the law firm of Koweeck, Cranna, and McEvoy. With law degree in hand, Bill worked diligently for his community. He held positions in the Columbia County District Attorney's Office as well as the Columbia County Attorney's Office.

In 1994, Bill was appointed as Hudson City Court Judge. He relished and excelled in his long tenure as Judge. Some have said that he used the position to combine teaching and discipline without ever being condescending. All who appeared before him were treated with respect and the respect was returned. Bill celebrated the culmination of his legal career as Court Attorney for the Honorable Paul Czajka.

But most of all, Bill Cranna loved his family. He is predeceased by his son, Liam, and survived by his children Brendan and McCaily (Abigail Thompson); his wife, Pamela Mixa-Cranna; his four brothers, Donald (Melissa), Kenneth, Thomas, and Robert; his in-laws, Bernice Pugliese, Patricia and Myron Cohen, Paula Rickborn, and Peter and Karen Mixa, as well as his nieces and nephews, Amy Clark, Serenella Randolph, Bryan, Patrick, Colin, and Austin Cranna, Seth Florio, Spencer Rickborn, and Kaila and Kirstyn Mixa.

In lieu of flowers and other gifts, donations can be sent to the Hudson Area Library or the Community Hospice of Columbia/Greene.

A memorial service will take place at the St. Mary's School on Saturday, February 5th at 2 pm.

Arrangements are with the Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler Funeral

Home.