

Testimony
of
Pamela Neill
Theresa Wadsworth
Leonard Neill
and
William Menarcheck, Sr.
before the
House Judiciary Committee
on
House Bill 2669, P.N. 3661
“Bills’ Law”



RE: Bills' Law

Presented by: William I. Menarcheck, Sr.

It is both an honor and a privilege to speak to this Judiciary Committee. I served our country in the United States Navy in World War II. My life was in danger a number of times. I worked the Robena coal mine and had several near misses on my life. Going through these close calls was nothing compared to the past 2 years. I will try to explain why.

I returned home from the Navy and happened to take my uniforms to a local dry cleaner. When I went to the counter I met the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. It was love at first sight. I made every excuse I could think of to return to that cleaner as often as I could. Her name was Mildred Cabot and we were married 48 years ago. We have 4 children and 8 grandchildren, they remain the most important parts of our lives. Bill Jr. was our first born, my namesake.

When we heard that my son Bill was on Flight 427 that crashed in Pittsburgh we could not accept it. We never saw anything, we never held anything, that could make us believe that he was gone.

My wife would pray the Rosary every time Bill would travel until he would safely return. She would wait in the kitchen and look out the window when she knew he was due to arrive. Since that fateful September afternoon, a typical day for my wife would begin at 3:00 a.m. when she would get up to look out of the kitchen window with hopes that Bill would somehow return home, you see Bill had lived with us the three years before he died. After an hour or so she would return to bed and sleep restlessly till about 8:00 a.m.. She would have coffee in our living room where we have a wall with all the family pictures and just stare with tear filled eyes at Bill's picture. She would not leave the house except to visit my other children. She spent most of her day sitting and staring out the window waiting for our son to come home. Mil would go back to bed at midnight and tell me that she thought that she would hear the doorbell ring and that it might be Bill. No one was ever there. This day repeated itself exactly 750 times until we lost her on October 8th of this year. 750 times he never came down the walk. 750 times he was never at the door. 750 times she cried everyday.

I feel that she could wait no longer, that she could cry no more. Please don't permit any other fathers, mothers, brothers, or sisters to suffer as we have. You alone have the power to prevent this from ever happening to anyone again. There will be other plane crashes and others will mourn as we have. You must permit them to have the closure so that they can resurrect their lives. You must support House Bill 2669.

Millie M. Menarcheck

Millie M. Menarcheck of Uniontown, Pa., died Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1996, in Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, W.Va.

She was born in Leith, Pa., daughter of the late Louis and Elizabeth (Pepe) Cabot.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her dear son, William I. Menarcheck Jr., in 1994; two sisters, Theresa Cabot and Josephine Cabot; and three brothers, Mike, Sam and Joe Cabot.

Mrs. Menarcheck was a member of St. Threse Roman Catholic Church, a graduate of Uniontown High School Class of 1941, a member of the Mount Vernon Lanes "All-Stars" Monday Night Bowling League and had been employed for 20 years at several of the local State Liquor Stores.

She is remembered best by her family as a wife, mother and grandmother who loved them faithfully, unconditionally and completely; she was "The Best."

Surviving are her husband of 48 years, William I. Menarcheck; the following children, Mrs. Leonard (Pam) Neill and Mrs. Donald (Theresa) Wadsworth, all of Uniontown, Pa., and Jerome L. Menarcheck and his wife, Cindy of Smock, Pa.; eight grandchildren, Billy and Whitney Menarcheck, Lia and Lennie Neill, Tia Wadsworth and Ross, Scott and Meggie Menarcheck; a brother, N. "Patsy" Cabot of Morgantown, W.Va.; a sister, Thelma Yezioro of Lemont Furnace, Pa.; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends will be received in the HAKY FUNERAL HOME, 139 West Fayette St., Uniontown, Pa., today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., and Thursday until 8:30 a.m., when a prayer service will be held, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 9 a.m., in St. Therese Roman Catholic

Church, with the Rev. Fr. John A. Regoli, V.F., as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hopwood, Pa.



One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he

noticed only one set of footprints along the beach. He noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

(Footprints)