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# Vincent Eugene Giglio (1934-2008)

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VINCENT EUGENE GIGLIO:  
(1934-2008)

Close personal friends of Judge Vince Giglio called him the “Italian Prince” in light-hearted recognition of his Sicilian ancestry. During his years of service as a judge, he became a champion for the young people in trouble in varying degrees with the law administered in the Juvenile Division of Hillsborough Circuit Court, Florida. That was his lasting legacy.

As this story about the life and career of Vince Giglio is being assembled, the final quarter of a Southeastern Conference football contest is just underway. Judge Giglio would have been proud at this moment as the Gators are leading 23-6. Having attended the University of Florida and earned his B.A. degree in 1954, Giglio was a longtime Gator supporter. The writer’s late father, a native of East Tennessee and a past President of the Vols Club in Memphis in the late 1930s was an equally ardent booster of the Tennessee football eleven. All the foregoing just proves that you can’t please everybody. The Gators went on to defeat the Volunteers 23-13.



Vince was the only child of Angelo Giglio and his wife, Rose; and was a lifelong resident of Tampa, born January 16, 1934. He was a good student, even in his early years while attending Mitchell Elementary, Wilson Junior High and Plant High schools.

His plans for a career in the legal profession were delayed when he was drafted into the U.S. Army after the Korean War commenced and he had graduated from Plant in 1950. Vince had about two years of service, primarily in Germany. His first child, Deborah Giglio, was born in Germany. The Giglios’ second child, Stephanie Musumeci, came approximately eight years later. Vince was introduced to his future wife, Patricia Wimmer, by one of his closest friends, Henry Gonzalez of Tampa. The happy couple married on September 2, 1956, and the marriage endured more than half a century.

In 1952, when Vince was just a few years short of his majority, his father Angelo, a barber by profession, lost his life in a bizarre incident, the details of which will not be included at the request of Vince’s widow, Pat, and her wishes will be respected.

Following his military service and honorable discharge, he graduated from Stetson University College of Law in 1961.

Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass is credited with the observation: “The onion has many skins. Peeled, it renews itself, chopped, it brings tears; only during peeling does it

speak the truth.” Peeling back, so to speak, the outer layers of the Judge Giglio persona, we find many things to ponder over. He was a remarkable person. First, he was intensely devoted and loyal to his wife and children. Secondly, he was zealous about doing his professional work carefully and well—first as a lawyer and later as a judge.

After Vince’s graduation in law, he enjoyed a 23-year career in his profession; he served as Special Assistant Attorney General, Division Chief in the Public Defender’s office, Chief Assistant State Attorney under the late Joseph G. Spicola, Jr. He became a founding member of the law firm of Peavyhouse, Giglio, Grant, Clark & Charlton, and was a busy and talented lawyer for an extended time until 1984, when, equipped with a rich legal background and broad experience as a trial lawyer and advocate in general practice, he was chosen by Governor Bob Graham to fill a vacancy on the Circuit bench in his home county.

Vince always kept busy before taking public office. He was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, Florida Blue Key, Past President of Centro Asturiano Hospital Board of Directors, Child Abuse Council Board Member, and Past Baron and King of the Knights of Sant’Yago. He was a member of Carrollwood Village Golf Club, where he enjoyed the game of golf until his health failed after his retirement. After becoming a judge, he appeared periodically as a guest lecturer at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College. Also, he spoke before various civic groups, churches, chambers of commerce, PTAs, and all levels of the Hillsborough County school system. His topics included the inadequacies and shortcomings of the juvenile justice system and the need for early intervention and prevention of child abuse and drug-related problems.

When he announced for reelection in July 1990, the notice carried that he was currently serving on the newly created Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, and on the board of Directors of the Tampa and Hillsborough County Youth Council. He was also, of course, a member of the Florida Bar and the Hillsborough County Bar Association, where he had served as a member of the Media Law Committee and had chaired the Pro Bono Committee for two years. Moreover, he belonged to the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and the American Judges Association. It is evident that he had little spare time.

I just talked briefly with one of the nicest persons ever associated with Hillsborough County government, referring to Victoria (everybody knows her as “Vicki”) Contos. Before her marriage to Stephen Contos, she was Vicki DiSalvo. Vicki, who lives just east of downtown Ybor City, is a lovely lady who worked for the former, now deceased, Circuit Judge I.C. (Nelson) Spoto. He employed her in his law office prior to his judgeship and that association lasted for thirty-plus years when she became his Judicial Assistant and his workplace became the historic Courthouse on Franklin Street between Lafayette and Madison Streets.

About 1952, when the Pierce Street Courthouse became the site of county government, the County’s full complement of four Circuit Judges were shifted to the new facility at 412 Pierce Street on the third floor. The two newest judges took possession of the two adjoining offices on the extreme south end of the third floor, plus Courtroom 2. Judges Tillman and Spoto occupied the two offices last described and remained there for the duration of their terms of office. Just across the hall, on the west side of the third floor, were housed the other Circuit Judges, namely L.L. Parks and Harry N. Sandler, both of whom had served for years prior to the advent of Spoto and Tillman. Judge Parks was the senior in terms of service, having taken office in the 1920s. Judge Sandler came some years later.

Older members of the Hillsborough County Bar Association will remember Dot Vines, who served faithfully and effectively as Executive Director of the Association from 1966 until

1989. She still lives in Tampa and she recalls that Judge Giglio attended Bar meetings regularly, and if busy in court hearings at such times, he would come carrying his robe over his arm.

Former Bar President A. Dallas Albritton relates that he never knew or heard of a judge more affable and friendly; that he is still missed. A measure of the quality and character of the former can be revealed by a letter written to his widow and family after the judge's death. It is reproduced as follows:

Dear Patricia and Family:

I am sure there has been an outpouring of sympathy for you and your family, sympathy from across our community. Vincent was truly a beloved man and his loss came entirely too soon. I always enjoyed Vince as a lawyer. He was honest and open and a real pleasure to deal with.

However, it was as a judge that he became best known, for he was truly born to be a judge. He had everything needed for the business of administering justice: intelligence, courage, understanding of people, understanding of the law, as well as wit and humor. I dearly loved to appear before him, no matter what the matter, because I knew he could penetrate all of the obfuscation and get to the heart of the matter. Even if he ruled against you, he did so without offending you and your client unduly.

He never showed the slightest favoritism. He could be quite firm when necessary. For instance, I recall one hearing that was quite combative. Judge Giglio did not let the lawyers ruffle his feathers. I recall he made his ruling and then addressed one lawyer who had been particularly obstreperous.

He said, "Now, Mrs. ----, do you understand what I am saying, do you hear me?"

She responded, "Judge, I am listening."

He said, "I know you are listening, but the question is do you *hear* me?"

There was great emphasis on the *hear*, and we all understood that he meant for us not to give lip service to his pronouncement but that we were to fully understand his ruling and were to be guided by it without and question whatsoever. He certainly made his point!

There was just so much to admire about Vince. But it was in the Juvenile Court that he became most famous. In many ways the Juvenile Courts are most important, because they deal with human lives that can be positively influenced for their futures. Those of us who loved and respected Vince are sure that his reward is great. No judge worked harder in the administration of justice, especially for the young people in our community.

"His loss is great to you and your family and the community. We are all going to miss him so much. His was a life well lived. We will remember Vince and our pleasure in him. Losing him, particularly when he might have lived many more years, is terribly hard. But, we are all so happy that he passed through our lives!

With deepest sympathy, I am

Most Sincerely,  
A. Dallas Albritton (signed)"

Veteran Tampa lawyer Richard A. Hirsch, former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Middle District of Florida, where he served with unique distinction the trial staff, conveys the following with regard to Vince Giglio:

“I first met Vince Giglio in 1969 when he was an Assistant State Attorney on the staff of State Attorney Joe Spcola. At the time, I was serving as an Assistant County Solicitor on the staff of County Solicitor E.J. Salcines, Jr. Both prosecuting offices were on the fifth floor at the Courthouse Annex, and we had the opportunity of seeing and working with each other on a frequent basis. While it is hard to believe today, the entire staff of the State Attorney’s office consisted of six prosecutors, and there were six assistants in the office of the County Solicitor. These offices prosecuted all criminal cases in Hillsborough County. While I do not know the exact number of prosecutors presently on the State Attorney’s staff, it is clearly approximating 150.

Vince Giglio was known as a hard working, tough but fair prosecutor who clearly had the respect of his peers, including his adversaries on the defense.

My recollection is that Vince went into private practice after his tenure in the State Attorney’s office with the Peavyhouse law firm, a well-respected firm who had its principal office in Brandon. On occasion, our paths would cross, and I always found Vince to be an extremely competent litigator who was a proponent of civility in all his dealings with other members of the Bar.

I do not recall the exact timeframe that Vince became a Circuit Judge, but I do remember that he spent much of his time on the Court in the Juvenile Division. While I had infrequent contact with Judge Giglio on the bench, as I did little Juvenile work, I would see him at various Bar functions and we always enjoyed reminiscing about our days as young prosecutors, although I reminded Judge Giglio that he was clearly me senior related to both age and experience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard A. Hirsch”

Former Florida Governor Bob Martinez has some positive and complimentary things to say about Judge Giglio. A copy of his comments is reproduced as follows:

It’s wonderful that you are writing a biography on Judge Vincent Giglio. Below are a few recollections that I have about Judge Giglio.

I first met Vince Giglio in 1975 when I owned and operated the Café Sevilla Spanish Restaurant. Vince would come for lunch with friends, take a table in the south dining room and over lunch dissected the news of the day. I remember him going table to table greeting people he knew and sharing a few words with them.

Governor Bob Graham made an excellent decision when he appointed Vince Giglio to the bench in 1984. As a judge, I never saw a judge committed to one aspect of law as Judge Giglio. His commitment to the Juvenile Justice System made him an expert in an area where new ideas were sorely needed.

While serving as Governor of Florida, I issued an executive order creating the 1989 Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force to look at the Florida Juvenile Justice System. The first person I thought of for appointment to the task force was Judge

Vince Giglio. He served with distinction and some of the task force's findings became law or policy over time.

I hope the above information is useful.

Sincerely,  
Bob Martinez (signed)

During his tenure as Judge of the Juvenile Division of Circuit Court, Judge Giglio's greatest pleasure came from his practice of periodically seeking donations of stuffed animals from Tampa stores and merchants. He would also buy dolls and stuffed animals at after-Christmas sales. He would keep the small items secure in his large, spacious desk, which he had ordered from Europe. When he found it appropriate, he would extract one of the stuffed dolls and present it to one of the youngsters in his court—just another example of his magnanimous generosity to those whom he referred to as “his kids.” Paul Wilborn, the gifted *Tampa Tribune* columnist, poignantly reported that the Judge's usual glare was replaced with a broad smile when the gifts were handed out ceremoniously in the courtroom.

After the Judge's death, there was found among his personal effects a generous letter from Charlotte Reed of Tampa, extolling the Judge's masterful handling of the unfortunate cases of young people in trouble, with which Judge Giglio had to deal every day. The letter is reproduced here:

“Dear Sir,

I have had the privilege to sit in your courtroom as an observer through two legally and morally complex child abuse cases. Both your decisions, at the end of long, turgid and emotionally exhausting afternoons, have seemed to me remarkable.

In the . . .<sup>1</sup> case (March 3, 1988), after I had heard enough personal pain, opinion, contradictory statements and raw emotion to reduce me to a radish, you proceeded to deliver a verdict that was consummately compassionate, intelligent and wise—tough where it needed to be, kind where it was so desperately required, and at the bottom line, truly in the best interest of the child. I was deeply moved.

Then, again yesterday (August 22, 1988), at the end of the . . .<sup>2</sup> case, I saw you bring everyone, from every divergent point of view, to an absolute, complete and correct conclusion. From all the words, tears, fears, lies, personal perceptions and legal postures, you discerned not only the naked vulnerability of this child, but, more valuable, you structured a judicial way to protect her.

And so I said to you, inadequately, in the elevator, ‘Thank you, sir.’ You replied, ‘I call them as I see them.’

I feel I have been present at occasions when your vision has been extraordinary.

I say ‘Thank you’ again.

Charlotte P. Reed (signed)”

Former Chief Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit Guy W. Spicola writes:

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<sup>1</sup> The name in the court case has been removed by the Editor.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

“I first met Vince when he came to work as an Assistant Public Defender for my brother, Joe Spicola, who was Florida’s first Public Defender. Brother Joe went on to be State Attorney and brought Vince along as an Assistant State Attorney. Joe left the State Attorney’s office and went into practice with me. Vince went into practice with the firm that is now Clark & Martino.

I was appointed to the bench in 1980 and was serving as Chief Judge soon after. Vince was appointed to the bench in 1984. He served for a short time in Family Law but wanted desperately to serve in the Juvenile Division, where he served with distinction until he retired from the bench. I am happy that I assigned him to that position. The only things Vince loved more than being a Juvenile Judge were his family and the Florida Gators.”

The Honorable Donald C. Evans, who is still actively serving on the Circuit Court in trials, provides this account of his dealings with Judge Giglio:

“When I was first admitted to practice law, Judge John Hodges appointed me to represent a man charged with rape. This was when the death penalty was an option. The State of Florida was represented by Vince Giglio. The defendant was an African American. The victim was quite elderly. When she was asked if she could identify the person who committed this crime against her, she looked right past my client into the audience and picked out a teenage boy who was there as a Boy Scout observer. He was African American. Needless to say, I got an acquittal. Judge Hodges wasn’t very happy with the outcome, but Vince and I joked about it many times thereafter.

Several years later, we both found ourselves as assistant public defenders. We served in different divisions but handled several cases together. Vince was a pleasure to work with. Bob Rawlins was the Public Defender. The other two assistant PDs were Judge Luckey and Gerald Herms. We had two secretaries. How things have changed. I expect that Julie Holt now must have a staff of at least 100.

Vince and I didn’t interact very much as fellow judges. He pretty much stayed in Juvenile Division, which kept him plenty busy. Regardless, I always found him to be a true professional and a great asset to the bench and to the public.”

About 1977, while still active in what he called his career as a “street lawyer,” Vince acquired the skilled services of a talented legal secretary. Her name was is Dyann (Rocky) Valdez. She remained associated with Giglio after he became a judge, serving as his judicial assistant until his retirement in 1996. He was, she proudly proclaims, “like a father to her,” and he reminded her that the public would consider her an extension of him. She was quickly hired by Honorable Rex Barbas, who succeeded Judge Giglio in the Juvenile Division. “Rocky” continues presently in that seat of responsibility. She also is quick to note that she was associated with more than one lawyer named Vince—Vince Thornton, Vince Nuccio, and lastly Vince Giglio.

The following is a reminiscence by Russ Peavyhouse:

“Trying to convey the essence of such an enigmatic character as Vince Giglio, a longtime friend and former law partner of mine, in 700 words or less is a formidable challenge, for his contributions to his family, our community, the practice of law, the judicial system, abused and neglected children, and juveniles within the criminal court system are extensive and far reaching.”

Judge Giglio’s legacy of service to Tampa began in 1860 when his paternal great-grandfather and grandfather emigrated from Sicily. His grandfather later worked a debit route for Gulf Life Insurance. During the Great Depression, Judge Giglio’s grandfather was one of the few in his community who had a job, and his home became a gathering place where food was always available to those less fortunate. The legacy continued with Judge Giglio’s father, Angelo, and his Uncle Sam, who were popular barbers, his Uncle Vince, who was a civil servant with the Department of Agriculture, and his Aunt Angie, who for many years was the head nurse at Tampa General Hospital. His maternal grandmother and his mother, Rose Maniscalco Giglio, worked in Tampa’s cigar factories, and his mother later worked with the Head Start Program.

After serving in the U.S. Army and following his graduation from Stetson Law School, Judge Giglio practiced law for 23 years before being appointed to the bench in February 1984, first as a Special Assistant Attorney General, then Division Chief in the Public Defender’s Office, then Chief Assistant State Attorney, and then as a private practitioner.

Judge Giglio’s judicial career was largely spent in the Juvenile Division by choice, before he retired in December 1996. While on the juvenile bench, he became known statewide for his fierce determination to address the inadequacies and shortcomings of the juvenile justice system and to develop some teeth in it to create accountability in minors and their parents. Likewise, Judge Giglio presided over dependency cases often dealing with abused and neglected children. Such cases were gut-wrenching and his decisions weighed heavily on his heart as he tried to address both the protection of these fragile children and the possible emotional impact of placing them in alternate care settings. He worked tirelessly to assist in establishing early intervention and prevention programs to curtail child abuse, and he was stalwart in addressing prevention in drug and alcohol related cases involving Tampa’s youth. To paraphrase a former coordinator for the Guardian Ad Litem Program in Hillsborough County, Charlotte Reed, the Judge always “called them as he saw them” and administered justice accordingly, pursuant to the law, but his rulings were always subject to “the inescapable leaven of his humanity.”

To illustrate the impact that one with such authority can have on a child, Judge Giglio recalls the one case which touched his soul so deeply that it still reduces him to tears. A young adopted Eurasian girl, only five years old, had been repeatedly beaten by her father and her little body carried the scars of the abuse she had endured. The Judge asked to meet with the child in his chambers prior to the court session. To put her at ease, he wrapped his judicial robe around her and she giggled with delight. Later, when he came into the courtroom and was seated on the bench, the little girl left her mother’s side at the attorney’s table and ran up to the platform and climbed up into Judge Giglio’s lap and asked him if she could

wear his robe again. As she sat there on his lap with her innocent exuberance, he advised the father that if he ever felt the need to inflict such harsh corporal punishment on a child again, he should call Judge Giglio, who would gladly accommodate him.

Having served our community as a lawyer for 23 years and as an outstanding and exemplary jurist for 12 years, Judge Giglio is enjoying his retirement years with his lovely wife of 48 years, Patricia; their daughter, Debbie Giglio and her husband, John Casey; and their daughter, Stephanie Musumeci and her husband, Sal, and their two sons, Michael, 9, and Stephen, 8, who live right next door to Judge Giglio and Pat.

Our community and our society at large have been immensely enriched by Judge Giglio's dedicated service, honesty, integrity, sense of justice and compassion, and we thank him for setting the high standards for other jurists and attorneys to follow.

John Grant, Esq., shares a story about Judge Giglio:

"I was a young lawyer, barely a six month member of the bar. Back then, we had a Criminal Court of Record that handled all criminal matters, except those that were capital offenses, which were tried in the Circuit Court. The Public Defender did not represent indigents in capital cases, so judges appointed counsel. I don't believe those appointed were compensated.

Judge John G. Hodges called my office one morning and asked me to come to his chambers. I told him I would be right there, wondering what I had done wrong to merit a summons to his chambers. My office was in the Legal Center right across the street, so I got to Judge Hodges' chambers in less than five minutes.

Judge Hodges said, 'Son, I have appointed you to represent a defendant charged with the capital crime of rape.' I said, 'Yes, sir,' but left his office wondering what to do. I had never tried a jury trial, and now I was going to cut my teeth by trying to keep a man out of the electric chair.

When I checked, I found out that he was charged with sixteen counts, all perpetrated on sixteen different women. He had a deformed arm and was easy to identify. I went over to the jail and met my new client. He said he knew he would be found guilty, and all he asked me to do was to keep him out of "Sparky."

When it came time for the first court appearance, I met Chief Assistant State Attorney Vincent Giglio. He was polite but firm. He had the goods on my client and planned to ask for the death penalty.

I worked as hard as I could, and worked a lot with Vince. We learned that we actually lived a couple of hundred yards away from each other. In the course of the proceedings, Vince and I developed a real friendship that was to last over forty years.

While the jury was out, we talked about our mutual interests, and when the jury came back with a guilty with mercy verdict, my client and his family were elated and much pleased with my services. After the family left the courtroom, Vince turned to me and said, "John, you can really try a case." He mentioned that

there was a vacancy in the SA's office and he would like to hire me. I told him I would think about it.

I called him a couple of days later to say that I would accept and was delighted about the prospect of being a prosecutor. I said I would start as soon as they wanted me, and he suggested the following week. Then, I realized that I had to get my client's sentencing behind me. Vince said he would call parole and speed up the PSI, which came back in record time.

On sentencing day, my client and I stood before the bench while Judge Hodges sentenced my client to life imprisonment. The bailiff cuffed my client and escorted him out the door. Judge Hodges watched the door and as soon as it closed, he asked me to raise my right hand while he swore me in as an Assistant State Attorney.

That began a close relationship with Vince. We prosecuted together and became close social friends, along with our respective wives. After a couple of years, knowing that the State Attorney's office would be merged with the County Solicitor's office, we knew that we would have to make a transition, so we talked about practicing law together.

I left SAO to set up a private practice, and Vince followed about a year later. Soon, we were joined by Russell Peavyhouse and later Jim Clark and Scott Charlton, and the firm of Peavyhouse, Giglio, Grant, Clark and Charlton was on its way. Later we were joined by Clifford Opp and now Judge Wayne Timmerman, as well as Joe Horn Mount, who later was county attorney.

Vince had a brisk criminal defense practice, and was able to get many cases resolved without going to trial. In the mid-eighties, Vince came to me to talk about getting appointed to the Circuit Court bench. By that time, I had been elected to the Florida House of Representatives and was close to the Governor. I told him that if he could get out of the Judicial Nominating Committee, I thought I could help him in Tallahassee, and that's exactly what happened.

I well remember the night that the Governor's Chief of Staff called me at home to tell me that Vince would get a call from the Governor within the hour. I called Vince and didn't tell him what I knew, but did tell him that he would be getting an important call from Tallahassee that wouldn't be a prank, so he should take it seriously and not say anything stupid.

Vince spent his entire judicial career, first in family law and later in juvenile, and excelled in both. He became recognized as one of the leading juvenile judges in Florida. He had an outstanding judicial career and was respected by his peers.

Vince was a friend you would like to have. Like most Italians, he took friends to be an extension of his family. During the twenty-one years I was in the Florida Legislature, I was gone a lot, but my wife always felt secure because Vince was right around the corner, and she knew he would come help her on a minute's notice, day or night.

Vince was proud of his Italian heritage, and in his later years made a number of trips back to his homeland, often with his entire family. He was a founder of the Krewe of the Knights of Sant'Yago, and later served as both Baron and King of the Krewe.

He was also an avid Florida Gator. When Vince was a student in Gainesville, his father was tragically murdered and he relied on the Gator community to sustain him with relationships that lasted until his death. He had season tickets and rarely missed a game in the Swamp.

But the one thing that was most important to Vince, more than being Italian, more than being a Gator, and more important than being a judge, was his family: his wife Pat, his girls Debbie and Stephanie, and his grandchildren.”

The following are some remarks about Judge Giglio by Albert Cazin, Esq.:

“My first memories of Judge Giglio go back to our days at Plant High School. We rode the bus together, which dropped us off at the corner of MacDill Avenue and San Miguel. We then walked from there to Plant, which was a good half mile walk.

After high school, I didn’t see Vince (as we called him then) until one day after my first year of law school at Stetson. I was standing on a corner in front of Maas Brothers, watching the girls go by, which most young men did at the time. It was a great place to renew old acquaintances from high school or college, while being engaged in our favorite pastime.

While standing there, Vince walked up and we began conversing about our life since high school. I believe we had both spent some time in the military and had completed college. When I told him I had just completed a year at Stetson, he said he too was interested in going to law school, but had heard some horror stories about how difficult it would be. I assured him that it really wasn’t that bad, and if I could make it, I was sure he could, too.

I really don’t know if that gave him the encouragement he needed, but I do know that he went on to graduate from law school and become one of the most outstanding judges of our time. Also, at the time we had our conversation, little did I know that years later he would preside over my divorce case, and as I expected, he was fair and impartial to both sides.

Judge Giglio was certainly a credit to the judiciary and this community, and was and still is admired and respected by many in the legal community.

Albert Cazin  
Stetson Class of 1960”

Two of our fine U.S. District Court judges have some things to say about Judge Giglio, as follows:

The Honorable James S. Moody, Jr. says:

“Socially, I knew Vince because during his career he was honorarily tapped into Florida Blue Key, the University of Florida leadership organization. For several years, Vince was a co-sponsor of an annual Blue Key function in Tampa. We could host a Homecoming function in which members of Blue Key would come from Gainesville on a bus and bring that year’s Homecoming court with them. The idea was to promote Homecoming here in Tampa. Either Vince, Muruchi Azorin, or I would introduce the Blue Key president during the program

part of the function; the president would then introduce the other Blue Key officers, and the Homecoming director would introduce his court. Vince always enjoyed being the M.C. of the event and he did a very good job. As I'm sure you remember, he was a dapper fellow and was eloquent.

The last couple of years of his life, Vince stopped participating because his Parkinson's got worse. I did not have much contact with him those last couple of years, although we would talk on the phone occasionally."

The other local federal judge is Richard Lazzara. The latter advised that he and Judge Giglio were cousins. Their mothers were first cousins. Judge Lazzara advises that he never had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Giglio, but that the latter's passion for children and betterment of the juvenile system were well known. The Honorable Richard Lazzara shares one special story about Vince, as follows:

"After I became a County Court Judge in 1987, he and I had a discussion about the judiciary and how to be an effective judge. He advised me to attempt to avoid deferring ruling on cases if at all possible. Based on his experiences, he found that when he deferred ruling on a case, he would spend days thinking about the case, sometimes agonizing over it. And then, when he finally came to a decision, he found that it was the same decision he was inclined to make at the end of the hearing. I have learned from experience the wisdom of that advice."

Despite his good works on earth, and his seemingly robust health, Judge Giglio could not avoid or outlive the inevitable meeting with the grim reaper, something that is the inevitable destiny of all mortal men. Death came to Vince Giglio on November 20, 2008 at age 74. He was recognized in editorials in all the local newspapers as not only a good man, but a superior jurist who left a footprint in local history.

Vince Giglio was a big man, in body, mind and spirit. He may be gone now, but he lives on in the hearts of those young people and their families whom helped. May he rest in peace for eternity.

Morison Buck

AFTERWORD:       What this country needs is more working men and fewer politicians.  
                          Will Rogers