



The Honorable Francis X. Gorman

September 22, 1940 - November 9, 2021

The Honorable Francis X. Gorman, 81, passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was affectionally known to his friends and family as "Mickey." He was born on September 22, 1940, to Lawrence and Josephine Gorman, in Toledo, OH. He was particularly proud of his Irish heritage and visited Ireland often to mingle with the Irish, and feel the sod of his immigrant grandparents under his feet.

A member of the first graduating class of St. Francis de Sales High School in 1958, he continued to be an active supporter of the school's activities until his death. After earning a degree in English Literature from the University of Toledo and service as Student Body President his senior year, he went on to graduate from Toledo Law School and enter the practice of law in his beloved home town.

Prior to being sworn onto the bench, he specialized in labor law, employment discrimination, and civil rights law. He was especially proud of being plaintiff's counsel in the 1972 historic case of *Jones v. Wittenberg*, in which the Federal Court ruled that jail inmates have a right to be held in humane and favorable conditions. He was elected to the bench in Toledo Municipal Court in 1987, where he served for 24 years, until retiring in 2011. He was greatly admired for his fairness on the bench and often regarded himself as a "social worker," with a focus in rehabilitation and lowering recidivism rates in the community. While he treated his role on the bench with the upmost seriousness, he is

remembered among his colleagues, attorneys, and the community, for his occasional irreverence while presiding over various matters on the bench. He was a founder and member of the Court Diagnostic and Treatment Center and served as a Board Chairman for many years. He also served on the Supreme Court Of Ohio's Traffic Rules Committee, Labor Management System Society (LMS), served twice on the Ottawa Park Board, and was a founding member and chairman of the Toledo Clinic Foundation.

Judge Gorman's distinguished career as a lawyer and judge never took precedent over his roles as a father, husband, and friend. He loved spending time with his family and was always proud of his daughters' accomplishments. He was known for his gift of storytelling, mischievous sense of humor and lightheartedness. He was an avid sailor, reader, scenic photographer, cyclist, World War II military collector who enjoyed raising Border Collies and listening to classical and folk music. He also enjoyed traveling to the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes.

He is survived by his two daughters, Kathleen Gorman of San Francisco, CA, and Clare (Andrew) Gottschlich of Columbus, OH; brother, Lawrence Gorman of Richmond, VA; companion, Marie Saeger of Silver Springs, MD; and seven nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Susan. A Memorial Mass will be held on November 18, 2021, at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick's Historic Church, 130 Avondale Avenue, in Toledo. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Humane Society, or St. Francis de Sales High School. Arrangements have been made with the Coyle Funeral Home. Please share memories and condolences with the Gorman family at www.coylefuneralhome.com/obituaries/ <<http://www.coylefuneralhome.com/obituaries/>>.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Historic Church Of St Patrick
130 Avondale Ave
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ I have many great memories of Judge Gorman. As a defense counsel, judge Gorman appointed, which is a nice way of saying he told me to represent, a particular client that repeatedly got arrested for the same street corner activity, every time she got arrested he would call and tell me to get over to the court because She was waiting for me. I laugh because he just expected me to do this, so I did. On another note, when I asked him to officiate my daughters wedding he didn't bat and worry but just asked when and where. He was my favorite Judge and I will always have those and many more memories.

mary James - November 25, 2021 at 10:43 PM

VS

He was a very compassionate person. Yiu will be missed.

Veronica Shipley - May 21 at 07:52 PM

JP

“ So sorry for your loss. Mickey was a terrific human. I was very fortunate to be able to call him a dear friend. Jeff Palicki

Jeff Palicki - November 19, 2021 at 07:47 AM

SM

“ About 5 years ago while receiving a chemo treatment one of the nurses was telling Mickey about the staff's patient assistance fund being transformed into a 501c3 charitable foundation. Being the compassionate soul that he was, he expressed understanding the financial hardship many cancer patients must experience, and offered to help. When I contacted him with a request to become one of the original board members he graciously accepted. He brought common sense, sound legal advise, and humor as he helped our organization expand. It was an honor working with him - he will be missed!

Sue Mahoney-Stombaugh, CNP
Toledo Clinic Foundation Board

Sue Mahoney-Stombaugh - November 19, 2021 at 03:14 AM

CC

“ Mickey and my husband, Ken, were in the first graduating class at St. Francis together. I got to meet Mickey years later when Ken and I met him and Marie at Biaggi's Restaurant in Perrysburg. The three of them knew each other from their high school years so there was no lack of conversation at that dinner. We had some wonderful times together in the following years and loved going to Gratz's in Ann Arbor, meeting other high school friends. After Ken died, Mickey was so kind to me and would go with me to the St. Francis reunions so I didn't have to be alone. He and Marie and I continued our friendship and dinner meetings for many years and I will always picture him with his martini in hand. I will forever remember Mickey's irreverent and infectious sense of humor and his knowledge of practically everyone in Toledo. He was a kind, generous and intelligent man and I will miss him greatly. Be at peace and free of pain, dear friend.

Cathy Cappelletty

Cathy Cappelletty - November 17, 2021 at 09:13 PM

BS

“ *My Dear Cousin Mickey,*

Although our meetings were few and far between, the memories I remember best were those spent at Aunt Joey's and Aunt Harriet's house on Broadway and going to the fireworks at Walbridge Park. I remember your wedding to Susan and how she added such light to your life.

You were an amazing man ,husband, father attorney and judge. May the dear Lord hasten your journey home and be with all those went before you.

Mary Beth "Horne" Shoemaker

Beth Shoemaker - November 17, 2021 at 12:50 AM

FS

“ *I was a Probation Officer when Judge Gorman first came on the bench and worked with him until my retirement as Cheif in 2005. He was one of the most approachable judges I ever served under. He always had time for people and had a wonderful sense of humor. He was humble and I remember when he was first on the bench and we were having trouble either reading his writing or understanding an order I would approach him and when he saw me he'd say, 'What did I do wrong now?' A wonderful man who will be missed.*

Floyd Simon - November 16, 2021 at 04:47 PM

MC

“ *My heart is sad hearing about the death of Mickey, yet it also brought back fond memories of many years ago. He and my husband were classmates at The University of Toledo Law School which was held on the top floor of the library on Bancroft! We had many fun gatherings back then and Mickey was always such a thoughtful and compassionate friend. I remember driving him to Ann Arbor for medical treatments, 50 some years ago, with our young daughter in the back of his MG. We were all worried about his health, but he surely rose above, was healed, and lived a wonderful long life. My heart goes out to his family and friends during this time of great loss!*

Sincerely, Marge Clark

Marge Clark - November 16, 2021 at 09:03 AM

FF

“ *Fair winds and following seas, dear friend. We will miss your wonderful laugh and the sense of humor that went along with it. And your straightforward assessment of everything, which reflected your unassailable integrity.*

Frank and Mary Frost

Frank and Mary Frost - November 15, 2021 at 02:57 PM

LF

“ Mickey
Francis X. Gorman

*Oh that smile.
It never stopped at being a mild smile,
His face opened up —
The cheeks red with happy warmth . . .
The eyes crinkling. His whole face laughing.
There was something like ‘relaxed bustling’ about Mickey.
Even if he wasn’t walking, or getting down, or getting up —
Nevertheless there was the promise of doing so. It would happen.
Everything about Mickey promised.
Eyes crinkling and focusing on the person
He was talking to. Ah, more likely “people” not just one person.
Self, shared with multitudes.
He seemed to absorb everything.
What a judge he must have been!
And believe me, we judged him as perfect.*

~ Linda Campbell Franklin, November 12, 2021

Linda Campbell Franklin - November 14, 2021 at 10:01 PM

JM

“ *As a probation supervisor in Toledo Municipal Court from the late 70's until 2008 I had many opportunities to interact with Judge Gorman. I will always remember his keen sense of humor and careful judgement on cases. His writing was another matter. I recall several of us huddling to decipher his affidavits scribbling, which a few of us became good at. There were also the humorous entries like "defendant found very guilty". He will be missed. Joe Moran*

Joseph Moran - November 14, 2021 at 08:56 PM

SS

“ I was heartsick to learn Mickey had passed away. He was a very good friend of my husband, Keith Sparrow, and I last talked to Mickey when Keith died. Among many things, they enjoyed sailing together. Please accept my profound sympathy to Kate, Clare and Mickey's brother and other family members. Suzanne Smitley

Suzanne Smitley - November 14, 2021 at 08:02 PM

MH

“ So long Mickey. It was good to know you. I'll miss our occasional chats out in front of the house as you drove the dogs on their walk ;)

RIP my friend.

Sláinte

~Mark Heminger

Mark D Heminger - November 14, 2021 at 02:26 PM

MM

“ Well Mickey you finished the race. Congratulations. You earned another holly card. They don't make them like Mickey anymore. A true credit to his Irish Catholic Heritage. A good friend and all around Gem of a guy, I like the fact that he took his Border Collies with him everywhere, even when he was on the bench! He called it "The Dog of Justice". They could always tell if someone was not telling the truth. Who else would do that? You will surely be missed by all who knew you. I can't be at your funeral, but I'll be tipping a Guinness or two in your name on Thursday. Have fun in Heaven Mickey.

Mike McMahon - November 14, 2021 at 01:36 PM

EZ

“ Judge Gorman was always a fair man and always treated LEO with utmost respect.

Retired TPD officers Ella & Marty Zielinski

Ella Zielinski - November 14, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AL

“ My condolences to your family for your loss.
May God's love comfort you always.



Amy Lehman - November 14, 2021 at 10:51 AM

CB

“ May he rest in GOD'S peace. Wonderful man and will be missed.
Carol & Terry BROWN

Carol Brown - November 14, 2021 at 08:33 AM

GI

“ As a class of 1997 graduate from St. Francis de Sales High School, I was honored to serve as occasional court bailiff and law clerk for Judge Gorman while in law school serving Judge McConnell. Judge Gorman and I would share stories of the old and new St. Francis from time to time. He will be missed.

George Robinson II, MBA- Pittsburgh, PA

George Robinson II - November 14, 2021 at 04:08 AM

JG

“ Our dearest Mickey...we will miss your Irish swagger, your upbeat attitude and most of all, your friendship for 63 years! We have been fortunate to have had such a wonderful person in our lives. You have been like a member of our family, having established relationships with Larrie Dad and Mom. We will have a void in our lives without you but your memories will be with us forever. May you rest in peace. Love, Joyce and Larrie Greenberg

joyce and Larrie Greenberg - November 13, 2021 at 01:33 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of The Honorable Francis X. Gorman.



November 13, 2021 at 09:28 AM