



Merritt "Tim" Green

December 30, 1930 - May 7, 2016

A memorial reception celebrating the life of Merritt W. (Tim) Green II, who died May 7 at his home in Traverse City, MI., will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd, Perrysburg, Sunday, July 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please leave a condolence message and view Tim's video tribute at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Merritt W. "Tim" Green, II, a prominent trial lawyer in Toledo and Michigan for over 50 years and captain of the 1952 Michigan Wolverines football team, died May 7, 2016 in Traverse City, MI, having moved to the area 25 years ago.

Born Dec. 30, 1930 in Toledo to Martha Dern and Merritt Green, Tim graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1948 and attended Staunton Military Academy in Virginia before beginning his college career in Ann Arbor. He played defensive end for the Wolverines, going to the Rose Bowl in 1951. He was named captain his senior year -- an honor he always valued because fellow teammates made him their choice.

Just four years out of U of M law school in 1960, Green put himself in the middle of a controversial dock workers' strike by advising his clients to ignore a Common Pleas Court injunction to stop picketing. He was charged with contempt of court in a case that went up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which

two years later found unanimously in his favor. His father, Merritt W. Green, argued the case before the Warren Court. "In re Green" established the National Labor Relations Board's exclusive authority over peaceful labor disputes within its jurisdiction and secondly, strengthened the protections for attorneys in advising clients.

The successful outcome built Green's reputation within the labor community, and he would soon join with labor lawyer Gerald Lackey to form the Green & Lackey law firm in the 1960s. The firm at one point represented a majority of the city's labor unions including the United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, International Longshoremen's Union, Retail Clerks' Association, U.S. Steel Workers, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, and for a time, the Teamsters' Union. As the firm evolved, Green represented members in personal injury lawsuits while Lackey was chief contract negotiator. By 1980, the firm had expanded to become Green, Lackey, Nusbaum, Phillips, and Harris.

Tim had a deep and instinctive bent for social justice along with an abiding interest in politics, leading to his participation with hundreds of other lawyers in voting rights and registration campaigns in Alabama and Mississippi in the mid 1960s, at the height of the national civil rights movement. Locally, he was a member of the Board of Community Relations, created to improve hiring practices for minorities.

His political interests began when he campaigned for the late Toledo congressman, Thomas L. Ashley in 1954. He also worked in his father's law firm, DiSalle, Green, and Haddad and the campaigns of former Ohio governor, Michael V. DiSalle. He briefly entertained practicing with Robert Z. Kaplan until -- as they like to tell it -- their mothers vetoed the idea.

Tim specialized in maritime law and represented families of several seamen

after the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975. Early in his career he served as a county judge in Waterville, OH.

Tim was known to have a keen disregard for propriety, putting him in the vanguard of the "casual Fridays" movement -- and Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. He abandoned his normal uniform of jeans and sweaters only in trial. On any given afternoon, he might be found center stage at the former Town Club restaurant on Adams Street, known as a favorite watering hole for judges, lawyers, and journalists.

He was a founding member of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, along with his father, Gerald Lackey, Tom Willging, and Louise Jacobson. When ABLE sued the City of Toledo for discriminatory hiring and promotion practices of its police and fire departments, he argued and won those cases in federal district court. He also tried ABLE's suit aimed at improving substandard conditions in the Lucas County Jail.

His labor involvement and civil rights work led to an association with then Detroit lawyer Dean Robb and finally his move to the Robb law firm in Traverse City in 1990.

Tim was an avid pilot who became hooked through a free flight offer and went on to earn his instrument rating, logging over 2,000 hours in his Cessna Turbo 210 and B-55 Beech Baron across the U.S., Mexico, and Central America. Zihuatanejo, GRO., Mexico became the home of his heart, and he traveled there for over 40 years.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patti; sons, Merritt W. (Terry) Green, III, and David Green; daughter, Sue (Joe) Beckler, and grandchildren, Kelly (Herb) Milem, Jason Green, Annie (Ryan) Loser, Timothy Green, Matthew Green,

and George Arnold. He also leaves behind special Zihuatanejo friends Orlando Espino and wife, Rosalinda.

He was predeceased by a brother, Denis Green and daughter, Robin Arnold.

Memorial services are planned in summer in Toledo and Traverse City. Coyle Funeral Home is assisting the family.

The family suggests that any tributes be in the form of contributions to Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, 525 Jefferson Ave #300, Toledo, OH 43604.

Please view Tim's memorial video tribute and leave a condolence message at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **24.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Hilton Garden Inn, Levis Commons
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Dear Sue and Joe,

It is with a heavy heart that I send my condolences to you and the Green family. I hold you in my heart with thought and pray.

Be blessed my friend, He did his job on this earth. Now he was called home to continue his works.

Fondly,

Patty Etue-Stephens

PattyEtueStephens - July 23, 2016 at 09:57 PM

SW

“ *Susie and Terry. The video and obituary describe a very interesting, intelligent and fascinating person that I would have liked to have known. I loved the MR. Fun T- shirt picture!! I am so sorry for the loss of your father. May the wonderful memories of him help you through this most difficult time and his spirit live on with you. Our deepest sympathy. Scott Abrams & Julie Warren*

Scott Abrams & Julie Warren - July 22, 2016 at 06:25 AM

JC

“ *Pat, What grabbed me today was Tim's obituary, so full of life and doing and causes and passion. I can see how you were the dynamic dual. so full of love and sharing of your lives. It shows in the video. I am truly sorry for your loss. sending love, joy*

Joy Cary - July 20, 2016 at 08:42 PM

PG

“ Thank you Patti for the tribute video. It brought back so many memories and also tears. I adored Timmy for all that he was....even his bad boy. I especially loved his bad boy. He was so lucky to have you. Terry, David & Suzie - you were so blessed to have him for a father. My heart goes out to you all.
Pat Garver

Pat Garver - July 20, 2016 at 04:33 PM

JA

“ Sorry for your loss Pat. I remember the two of you when you worked at Therma-Tru. May you be consoled by many friends and family at this difficult time.

Janet Adams-Nieman

Janet Adams-Nieman - July 17, 2016 at 11:12 AM

JJ

“ Thank you, Tim, for giving me my first job as a seventeen year old right out of high school. I learned a lot about the law. Also what it meant when a horse was in foal.

judy johnson - July 10, 2016 at 06:22 PM

JS

“ Sylvia says that she has too many memories to write. Please know Tim was loved by myself and my family. She loved working for Tim and his father. Please know our sympathies are with all of you...Sylvia Sodd, Jyl Sodd

jyl sodd - May 25, 2016 at 02:40 PM

PB

“ My best friend since second grade. Damn, I miss him. So many laughs. Good conversations about life, politics and Michigan football. -
Hail to a real " Victor and The Best."

*Philip Brunskill
Mayville, (Chautauqua) New York*

Philip Brunskill - May 13, 2016 at 01:51 PM

RS

“ Patti, so sorry to learn of Timmy passing. He was one of a kind and I am proud he passed through my life. Having a drink at Happy Hour in his honor. Hugs to you.

Ruth Schaub - May 12, 2016 at 05:19 PM

JD

“ I am very sorry to hear of your loss. My deepest condolences.

Julia Deiger - May 12, 2016 at 12:01 PM

DB

“ Our condolence to the Terry and the whole Green family.
David & Kelly Baranowski

Dave & Kelly Baranoeski - May 11, 2016 at 06:30 PM

RD

“ Condolences to Patti and the family. Tim was a wonderful person. I feel privileged to have known Tim. Our thoughts are with the family. The video was enjoyable.

Roger Dunigan - May 11, 2016 at 12:54 PM

BM

“ *Timmy Green...what a great man. Like the song says, "Unforgettable". My condolences to Patti and the family.*

Bob McCarthy - May 11, 2016 at 12:19 PM

BS

“ *My deepest sympathies to the family. We grew up together as our fathers practiced law in the same office and shared a close friendship.*
Barbara Haddad Sahley

Barbara Sahley - May 10, 2016 at 07:30 PM

BR

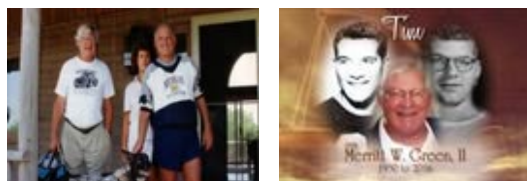
“ *8 files added to the album Family Photos from the Brown cousins.*



Brett - May 10, 2016 at 02:54 PM

CV

“ *2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - May 10, 2016 at 10:53 AM

ME

“ *Megan lit a candle in memory of Merritt "Tim" Green*



Megan - May 09, 2016 at 02:01 PM

ME

We will miss you Uncle Tim! Rest in Peace!

Megan - May 09, 2016 at 02:02 PM

CS

We have lost a human treasure. A true legend and one of the finest men and best humorists ever. The number of belly laughs he provided to all who knew him can not be counted.

Ginny and Charley Senn

Charley senn - May 10, 2016 at 02:09 AM

HW

To my cousin, Tim. Thank you for all the wonderful summer memories. The world is a little dimmer without that booming voice and laugh. Cap and Holly Wilson

holly wilson - May 10, 2016 at 05:23 AM