

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS



PASSING OF THE GAVEL ROBERTSON TAKES OVER!!!

Bill Robertson (New Jersey, 1980-81) ascended to the President's chair at our annual conference in Washington, D.C. Our past president Jim Cissell (S.D. Ohio, 1978-82) moves on. A special thanks is in order for Jim Cissell's term as President of NAFUSA. Under his leadership we got to Washington, D.C. and accomplished the greatest conference to date (no disrespect Mayor). Brother Cissell has been and will continue to be an active and contributing member of this organization. Bill Robertson has the same credentials. This group means an awful lot to Mr. Robertson as it does to Mr. Cissell and he will put forth all the effort necessary, and then some, to make this coming year an equal success. He makes his own luck.



WASHINGTON CONFERENCE... A HUGE SUCCESS!!!



Chief Justice Rehnquist was wonderful and surely the topping to the greatest NAFUSA conference to date. He arrived early, took the time for photos, dinner and conversation with most everyone. His speech, directed at public service and all that it entails can be found on our website: www.nafusa.org. Within his speech he told the story on an early 19th century trial of the murder of the U.S. Attorney for Washington, D.C. The defendant was a U.S. Congressman. The victim was the son of Francis Scott Key, the defense Attorney Edwin M. Staton and the verdict was not guilty. The deceased was messin' with the defendant's wife. Nothing changes. Everyone was a public servant of some repute. Thanks once again Johnny Walters.

Our trip to the Supreme Court was great. Not only was it informative but also entertaining. Our host General William Suter, Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, has seen it all. A talent scout could take the good General on tour. His remarks, while often comical, were deeply insightful of what goes on in that building and I am sure not of common knowledge. Prior to his presentation we had the unique experience of having our own folks sworn in by General Suter formally as members of the Supreme Court. The following folks raised their hand: John Donaldson Foster—Alabama, A. Melvin McDonald—Arizona, Guy Lewis—Florida (the new guy at EOUSA), Richard H. Deane Jr.—Georgia, Harry Donival Dixon Jr.—Georgia, Joseph M. Whittle—Kentucky, James S. Brady—Michigan, Daniel Joseph French—New York, Mary Dee Martoche (Sal's gal) - New York, John F. O'Donnell—New York, Quentin I. White—Tennessee, Ronald F. Ederer—Texas, Judith K. Guthrie—Texas, and Patricia Hair Woods—Texas. Yours

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truly was privileged to move for their admission. After all this we adjourned to the main courtroom itself and were lectured on the day-to-day operations, physical points of interest and the protocol of argument.

What an interesting time to be in Washington. The events of the last year have left and continue to leave an impression on everything and everybody. Our speakers for this year's conference reflected this impact.

Director Mueller (Massachusetts, N.D. California), Commissioner Bonner (1984-1989, C.D. California), and Administrator (Director) Hutchinson (1982-1985, W.D. Arkansas) all delivered remarks showing what their respective agencies were doing to handle the evils that confront America and the civilized world. They all exude confidence and strength and generate in all of us a sense of security and pride. These three gentlemen are as competent and as able as anyone could hope for.

While thinking back to the meeting it's impossible to label any of our speakers better than the other. Those mentioned above would say the same thing when it came to the presentation of G. Douglas Jones (N.D. Alabama). The story he tells of his involvement in the prosecution of the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombers (1963) was heart wrenching and exciting. The bad guys lost this one. If anyone wants to do his or her jurisdiction a favor, get a hold of Doug and have him make this presentation. Don't worry, he's easy.

Speaking of heart wrenching, you should have been with us for the remarks of Inspector Larry Fields, Commanding Officer of the Central Police Division—NYC Port Authority. He was there, lost friends and co-workers and with a one of a kind slide show, told a story that simply broke our hearts. At the same time it filled our hearts with pride and fervor for this great country of ours. You had to be there. The talk was presented to us at a terrific luncheon hosted by Director Asa Hutchinson at D.E.A. Headquarters. Also speaking to us was our friend from the New York Conference, Howard Safir, Former Police Commissioner of New York City. The proponent of expanded DNA use in criminal investigation and prosecution. A special thanks to my friend and former D.E.A. big shot—Billy Alden for putting this all together. NAFUSA made a monetary contribution to the soon to be opened Narco/Terrorism museum there at D.E.A. Headquarters. If visiting Washington, put this museum on your list of "must sees". Sean Fearn, Director of the museum, has a lot to be proud of. His assistance was also most appreciated.

Our pal Leon Friedman made his usual and informative presentation about the goings on at the Supreme Court. But this year he added something different. He gave us his thoughts and opinions (supported) on the legal and constitutional ramifications of the laws and regulations born out of September 11. Hopefully all of you noticed what a healthy balance Leon brings to our programs. There's no one better.

For sometime, but not as often as should be, NAFUSA makes a presentation to an Assistant United States Attorney out there in America who does a job way above the call of duty, a job that makes us all proud to have served in that office. The recipient is one of many and this year we could not have found a more worthy person to bestow this honor of outstanding Assistant U.S. Attorney upon. Robert Posey (Northern District of Alabama) works as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Birmingham and who, along with our friend G. Doug Jones, was the lead prosecutor in the last two cases involving the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing. Doug Jones was specially appointed to assist in this case. Robert Posey currently serves as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, in charge of White Collar Crimes Section. We



Professor Leon Friedman and Chief Justice Rehnquist



Lou DeFalaise, Robert Posey, Jim Cissell and Chief Justice Rehnquist



Chief Justice of the
United States
William H. Rehnquist

“Your organization of former public servants counts among its members many influential and respected lawyers from around the country.”

-Chief Justice Rehnquist

will be hearing lots more from this fine young man. By the way, the defendants Bobby Frank Cherry and Thomas Edwin Blanton Jr., both Ku Klux Klansmen, were convicted of 1st degree murder in the deaths of the four young girls. Maybe justice delayed is not always justice denied.

As is customary, the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys (EOUSA) made its presentation to our group about the activities of that office. We were introduced for the first time to Guy Lewis, former United States Attorney for the District of Florida. Guy is the new Director of EOUSA and brings with him an exciting vitality and dedication to the responsibilities of that office. Joining him was our friend Lou DeFalaise (1981-1991, E.D. Kentucky) legal counsel to the EOUSA and Paul Warner, Chairman of the Attorney Generals Advisory Committee (AGAC), a Clinton carry over (some of us get all the luck) and present U.S. Attorney for Utah. In a nutshell, the future is bright and the helm is in competent hands.

Jones-Day! Our host for a magnificent reception the first night of our conference. I know you are all familiar with who the law firm is, but I doubt you are familiar with the address. Wow! Right across from the United States Capitol looking over the wonder of our legislative citadel from a garden roof top. The fixins' weren't bad either, try excellent. We had that informal opportunity to mix and chat without pressure—no time lines. A special thanks to Johnathan Rose (1981-84, AAG Office of Legal Policy) and his able and lovely assistant Ms. Donovan. This wasn't your average obligatory chicken dip/meatball party—this was special.

The weather in Washington was absolutely perfect (no humidity, if you can believe it). The hotel (J.W. Marriott) was exceptional and the food they served should be the envy of all. This brings me to the business conducted and the changes made in the structure and direction of NAFUSA.

First, we are proud to announce the selection of James Brady (1977-1981, W.D. Michigan) as the new Treasurer of NAFUSA. Jim has been an active and contributing member of NAFUSA for over 20 years. The Board of Directors nominated the class of 2002 and the conference attendees thereafter elected them the class of 2005. They are as follows: Donald K. Stern (D. Massachusetts), B. Todd Jones (D. Minnesota), Peter F. Vaira (E.D. Pennsylvania), Fred Foreman (N.D. Illinois), William A Kolibash (N.D. West Virginia).

Because of everything that is not new to any of us— the cost of doing business, the following changes have been made to our annual dues structure:

Annual Dues: \$ 150.00

Lifetime Dues: \$ 1500.00

Senior Status: \$ 50.00—over 70 years of age

The Board of Directors unanimously decided it was time to clean up our membership roles. Unfortunately there are many of us who have been receiving the benefits of NAFUSA for many years without paying dues. Starting with the next newsletter we will be privately informing those who have been remiss in this regard that that they have an opportunity to pay their dues or be dropped from the roles and future mailings. Unfortunately this applies to far too many people. A decision was made to hold off publishing hardback copies of our NAFUSA directory. The most current information is on the website and easily downloaded (www.nafusa.org).

On the Monday following the conference members of the Board of Directors and Officers were invited to a meeting of the Attorney Generals Advisory Committee at the Justice Department. The meeting was chaired by our new friend Paul Warner

DEA Luncheon with Director Hutchinson



Touring the DEA Museum

With Director Hutchinson, Billy Alden, Howard Safir and Inspector Larry Fields



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER WITH CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST



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Besides the numerous U.S. Attorneys attending, along with Judy Beeman—AGAC Liaison (with whose help I could not live without) the following NAFUSA members attended: Bill Robertson, Jim Cissell, George Lowe (N.D. New York, 1978-82), Atlee Wampler (1980-82, S.D. Florida), Ed Dowd Jr. (E.D. Missouri), Bill Price (W.D. Oklahoma, 1982-89), Ron Ederer (1989-1993, W.D. Texas), John Clark (1975-1977, W.D. Texas) and yours truly. The meeting was highly successful and most constructive. A major topic dealt with and hopefully resolved or at least improved, was the problem we have all faced during the transition from one administration to another. Sometimes it is smooth as glass but often times quite bumpy and maybe even a little cantankerous. A commitment was had by all those present to do all in our power to influence a pleasant and meaningful transition amongst our brethren. There should be no deference to party or political leaning. The pride we all have for this office and those who serve (see Justice Rehnquist Remarks) should have no interference by petty politics and resentments. The Democrats and Republicans, the left and the right all get a shot at this experience and all of us should do what we can to make that experience worthwhile. In an effort to facilitate this goal we have created a new responsibility for our outgoing President, this year Jim Cissell. This position is now the official Liaison between NAFUSA and the chairman of the Attorney Generals Advisory Committee. Everyone was truly excited about these new responsibilities, especially Cissell. He likes to stay busy. This committee also committed itself to helping with and assisting in future CLE programs for NAFUSA.

Lest we not forget next year. The annual NAFUSA Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada (I can get you a deal). The venue is the wonderful and large (largest in the world) MGM Grand Hotel. The rates will be very attractive. The hotel is located right in the middle of everything. Directly to the south, the Tropicana Hotel, to the southwest the Excalibur, and right across the street the New York, New York complex. This reminds me, and I don't mean to offend anyone, but when we have contracted with a hotel to host our conference it is almost imperative that those attending register at that hotel. Price, service, amenities for everyone are negatively impacted if you stay elsewhere. This was a serious problem in Washington, D.C. We barely met our contracted obligations.

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