



## Maurice J. Sponzo

September 17, 1914 - June 20, 2007

The Hon. Maurice J. Sponzo, 92, of Simsbury, beloved husband of the late Angelene Alfano Sponzo, died June 20. Born in Hartford in 1914, he graduated from Hartford Public High School, the College of the Holy Cross and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He was admitted to the Connecticut and Federal Bars in 1940. The following year, he joined the United States Army, serving until 1946 with the 81st Infantry Wildcat Division and attaining the rank of Captain. He served as prosecuting attorney in the West Hartford Town Court during the periods 1949-51 and 1955-56, and was named Corporation Counsel for West Hartford in 1956, a post he held for three years. He was appointed a judge of the Circuit Court effective July 1, 1967. In 1970 he was elevated to the Court of Common Pleas and in 1974 he became a judge of the Superior Court, also serving on the Appellate Session of that court from 1975 to 1979. During this period he also served as a one-man grand juror investigating the highly publicized Peter Reilly case. In 1981, he was appointed the Chief Court Administrator for the Connecticut Judicial Department, a position he held until his retirement in 1984. In 1981 Judge Sponzo received the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association Judicial Award. The award's citation, speaking eloquently of his career, noted: "Ever mindful of the human dignity of all who appear before him, and with full awareness of the power of the judiciary, Judge Maurice Sponzo displays a deep respect for the law and for those who practice it. Above all, he has the courage of his convictions and the fortitude to express them." He is survived by: two

daughters, Anne Sponzo Cappelli and her husband Anthony, of Granby, and Marilyn Sponzo and her husband Douglas Hertz, also of Granby; two sisters, Rose and Theresa Sponzo of Farmington; a brother Michael of Avon; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, June 24 from 3 pm. to 7 pm. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Monday, June 25 at 10 am. at St. Helena's Catholic Church, 30 Echo Lane, West Hartford, followed by a committal ceremony at Fairview cemetery in West Hartford. Donations in his honor may be made to McLean Foundation, 75 Great Pond Rd., Simsbury, CT 06070.

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Sponzo Family,

*Marcia went to a meeting at Jackson Hole, WY, which the Judge also attended, and we picnicked at Lewis Lake, of which he always reminded her fondly in later years. We also saw the geyser, Old Faithful. At dinner that night, he surprised us by telling us that it was his 75th Birthday! But that was the kind of man he was. He, and you, are in our thoughts and heartfelt prayers.##imported-begin##Marcia and John Jr. Speziale##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Marilyn and family,

*I happened upon your Dad's obituary in the New Haven Register today. It prompted a wonderful flash back from our childhood. Remember when your Dad would make a game of throwing a ball to us? I seem to remember a line up of you, Mary and myself. He would make a big show of throwing it to one of us and then throw it to the other. I remember us laughing and giggling like crazy. Your Dad was not only a very accomplished man, he was a very nice man. I send my condolences on your loss.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janet Hooper##imported-begin##Janet Hooper##imported-end##*

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June 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Marilyn and family:

*It's been many many years but when I saw the obituary for your dad it brought back many memories of the days of McVane & Sponzo, the old office at the corner of Webster Street, your house on Selden Hill way before your sister was born. Ronna Reynolds is a client who has told me about you and your successes and your following your father's footsteps as did I. My sympathies to you and your sister on your father's death.*

*Pat McVane###imported-begin##Patricia McVane###imported-end##*

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June 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Uncle Moe: Thank You for the wonderful memories that we will cherish and remember. The family picnics and holidays will always bring a smile to our faces. Your honesty, integrity and values will stay with us and you will always be an inspiration to us and a constant reminder that there are good and decent people in this world. The Red Sox finally came through for you!###imported-begin##Michael & Mary Sponzo###imported-end##

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June 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM