



IN MEMORIAM
CHUCK KILCOYNE
By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief
Judge

Chuck Kilcoyne, who served as the Tampa Division's Deputy-in-Charge from 1987 to 2015, died peacefully on October 29, 2022.

Chuck began his career with the United States Air Force in 1968 as a Legal Specialist in the Judge Advocate General's Office at MacDill Air Force Base. After Chuck retired from the Air Force in 1972, he went to work as a paralegal for Don Stichter, who was then a sole practitioner. Chuck worked with Don Stichter, and Don's partners and associates, in a number of successor law firms, now known as Stichter, Riedel, Blain, & Postler, P.A. Chuck always referred to Don Stichter as "the Boss."

Judge Paskay recognized Chuck's leadership skills and, in 1987, encouraged him to apply for the Deputy-in-Charge position in Tampa. Beginning on December 6, 1987, Chuck managed the Tampa Division for 27 years until he retired in August 2015. During his tenure, Chuck supervised almost 100 Clerk's Office employees. He oversaw many changes at the Court, including the Court's move from a private office building on Memorial Highway to the Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse; the transition from paper files (remember the on-site copy service?) to CM/ECF; and the growth of the Tampa Division from a single-judge court to a four-judge court.

Chuck served under five chief judges: Judges Paskay, Proctor, Baynes, Glenn, and Jennemann. And he helped six new judges transition from practicing lawyers to sitting bankruptcy judges: Judges Baynes, Corcoran, Glenn, Williamson, May, McEwen, and Delano. The new judges soon learned who was "boss" in the Tampa courthouse. We will always be grateful to him.

After his retirement, Chuck volunteered for the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association Pro Bono Clinic and served as a chaplain for the American Legion. Chuck is survived by his wife Debbie; son Jeff; Jeff's wife, Stephanie Polo; and two grandchildren, Naia and Cayman.