

# TRIBUTE TO TOLEDOANS: 93-YEAR-OLD ATTORNEY WAS RIVING FORCE BEHIND RACIAL EQUALITY IN NW OH



When Eddie Cole came to Toledo at age 25 during the spring of 1946, his intention was simply to visit his sister before moving on to Chicago to find work. By this time, the young man had already worked on farms in his home state of Mississippi, as a bag boy at the Piggly Wiggly grocery store, lived through the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and studied at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi.

But instead of heading west to the Windy City, Eddie's sister and her friends convinced the young man to stay for three days to look for work in Toledo. On the third day he found work in construction and soon enrolled in the University of Toledo College of Law, where he graduated in 1951.

"When I first started practicing law, there were fewer lawyers," Mr. Cole said. "We all knew each other very well. There were docket calls for which you needed to be present in Municipal Court every day at 1:30 to either get a default judgment or sometimes try your case. In the Family Court, there was also a docket call on Thursdays that you had to be present for on a motion and so forth, so you had a lot of interaction with each other

personally. And most lawyers at that time filed their individual papers themselves. There were very few runners. Some of the large firms had college students to run papers for them, but most lawyers filed their own papers, so we'd walk together to court and talk as we walked, settle cases, and that type of thing. It was very helpful and you made friendships, too. There was a lot of camaraderie with lawyers and I do miss that."

Attorney Cole was one of those attorneys that always stood out as a pillar in the legal community to Chuck Boyk, after he graduated from UT Law in 1983.

"Mr. Cole was the attorney that all of us young lawyers wanted to emulate," Chuck said. "He had fantastic common sense, always tried to help others, and was a class act. His patience and generosity not only helped the people he represented, but also the community as a whole."

Mr. Cole was an integral force behind the Civil Rights movement in Toledo and worked hard to end segregation and help poor blacks in northwest Ohio. His list of accomplishments is long, like when he served as the Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP) and helped blacks get into an apprenticeship training program in 1963, helping to pave their way to other achievements.

"Back then, the Toledo Board of Education had a system of assigning black teachers only to schools where the majority of students were black," Mr. Cole said. "Although there were vacancies in other schools, they were disrespected. We were able to stop that through the NAACP by filing an Administrative Complaint. I was also a hearing officer for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission from 1975 to 1985 and I had the



Eddie Cole as a young man

opportunity to hear directly cases involving that type of thing, so I enjoyed that."

This gift of giving most likely stems from Mr. Cole's humble ability to look on the bright side, even while enduring the hardship of growing up in the South in the 1930's.

"There were always a lot of friends in the neighborhood," Mr. Cole said. "People understood that they were poor but most of the time you were laughing and having fun and playing ball. You understood that times were hard - everyone understood that. Santa Claus in the 1920's brought you everything but Santa Claus in the 1930's was very different. In high school, we would listen to the radio and music coming in from Chicago's ballrooms and you would hear bands like Count Basie, Duke Ellington. The same music that everybody heard, you heard too, and that is what you had to look forward to.

When Joe Louis turned pro in 1934, they would broadcast those fights. And at the end of the broadcasted fight, at the grocery store, they would quarter off the street corners and, under supervision, they would have all of us who wanted to box put on boxing gloves and box. They would take a watermelon and divide it in half and whether you won or lost, your side still got half a watermelon. You had a lot of fun.

"And even though you weren't in Chicago, you were still doing the same thing right there."

### VOLUME 8 ISSUE 12

SEPTEMBER, 2014

# **ATTORNEYS**

Charles Boyk, Michael Bruno, & Wesley Merillat

# **WE HAVE 6 OFFICES TO SERVE YOU**

#### DOWNTOWN TOLEDO

(419) 241-8731 Fax

405 Madison Avenue, Suite 1200 5301 Southwyck Blvd. Toledo, Ohio 43604 (419) 241-1395 Main (800) 637-8170 Toll-free

# **SOUTH TOLEDO**

Suite 107 Toledo, Ohio 43614

10725 Airport Highway 123 E. Jackson Street Swanton, Ohio 43558

#### **FINDLAY**

612 S. Main Street Suite 107 Findlay, Ohio 45840

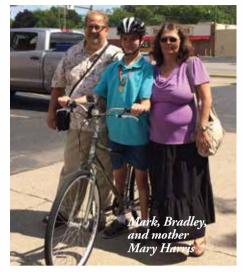
#### **WEST UNITY**

West Unity, Ohio 43570

#### **BOWLING GREEN**

121 E. Wooster Street Suite 255 Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

# KINDNESS, SELF-CONFIDENCE COMMON THEMES AMONG BIKES FOR KIDS WINNERS



When you fall off of your bicycle, the best thing to do is to pick yourself up and jump back on.

That is why Boyk Law is so proud of three Bikes for Kids winners who treat life with the same resilience after being faced with challenges that are difficult to overcome.

Week #6's bicycle was awarded to Jordan Holloway, a 14-year-old boy who, despite battling Autism, has been surprising people with his progress and independence his whole life.

Jordan was nominated by his father, Artie Griffin, for his unwavering concern for and ability to help others, even while battling his own disability.

"His diagnosis doesn't affect his compassion because he's constantly helping others and particularly enjoys interacting with children," Artie said. "And while attending a bike camp last summer at the Ability Center, Jordan shocked everyone by how quickly he learned to ride a bike on his own. With a new bike, his independence will surely continue to grow."

Another independent rider is 16-year-year old Week #7 winner Bradley Harris, who takes training for the Special Olympics extremely seri-



ously. So seriously, in fact, that during a training session for the Regional tournament, he did not realize just how fast he was going, and ended up injuring himself after taking a corner too quickly. Bradley split his helmet, seriously cut his lip, loosened a couple of teeth, and bent the front fork on his bicycle.

The damage to the bike caused it to be disqualified at State's, but luckily Bradley was able to borrow another athlete's extra bike and go on to win silver medals in the one-mile and three-mile cycling events.

Even though Bradley has Autism, his perseverance and dedication to helping others shines through his limitations, which is why his father, Mark Harris, nominated him for Bikes for Kids.

"Bradley is growing into a very special young man who loves to help people, especially at church where we serve community meals every evening," Mark said. "He always encourages others, and even made it a point to help calm a competing athlete who was afraid of impending rain at one of the recent Special Olympic events."

His kindness and determination has also not gone unnoticed by Gary Sensenstein, a former WTOL sports anchor and one of Bradley's former teachers at the Autism Model School.

"Bradley has had a remarkable year athletic-wise," Gary said. "He played soccer and made State Finals for Basketball. He likes every challenge. From soccer to basketball, Brad is usually matched

up against bigger guys, but he doesn't hold back and he is always ready to play."

Another local child who refuses to give in to intimidation is Alicia Gomez.

The 10-year-old fourth grader from Tiffin has been enduring racist comments since second grade, as kids repeatedly tease her for her skin color and tell her that she looks like a boy and has a mustache.

Alicia chooses not to let bullies get the best of her, beating the Center for Disease Control and Prevention statistics that bullying victims are at an increased risk of depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, and poor school adjustment. But instead of letting those comments define her, Alicia has opted to help other victims of bullying. It was her mother, Sarah Gomez, who nominated Alicia for the Bikes for Kids program.

"Alicia was raised not to judge another person no matter what and that everyone is special and deserves respect," Sarah said. "She puts aside things being said about her and helps others who are dealing with similar issues. She stresses to fellow peers as well as to younger and older kids that we are each unique, each deserve to be happy as well as liked and loved, no matter who we are or what we look like. If she sees someone sad or hurt she is the first one to step in and make them feel better. She overcomes how she feels by helping others."

With the help of Wersell's Bike & Ski Shop, Bikes for Kids was able to give away 11 bicycles this summer, complete with brand new helmets, locks, and water bottles.



# WILL BANKRUPTCY DESTROY MY CREDIT SCORE FOREVER? By Fred Boyk

I often get clients who are obsessed with maintaining a high credit score. They insist that they have always paid every bill on time and this has enabled them to get lots of credit cards, unsecured loans, and even home mortgages on reasonable terms.

Unfortunately, those same people are sometimes so deep in debt that they have no way of paying their monthly bills from their earnings.

In reality, they are living a lie. Continuously borrowing to maintain a high credit score does not result in financial stability.

Chapter 7 fresh start bankruptcy could be the way to enable these people to live within their means.

Although filing bankruptcy will indeed reduce a credit score in the short term, after the bankruptcy, a person's credit score will normally increase because they have much less debt.

Most people with regular earnings can get a car loan four months after filing bankruptcy. There is even one company that, in some situations, gives out auto loans the day after a person files bankruptcy. Home loans are available through FHA as soon as one year after a bankruptcy discharge.

If you are in a situation where your bills are overwhelming, feel free to contact us for a free consultation at 800-637-8170 to see whether bankruptcy is your best choice. A high credit score is great, but peace of mind is even more valuable.

If you are not sure of the validity of a call demanding payment for a tax debt, contact your local police, the FBI, or the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.



# OVERCOMING ADVERSITY: ANN MOONEY ENDURES SEVEN SURGERIES, FIGHTS TO WALK AGAIN



No one ever anticipates that an accident is going to occur. And when Ann Mooney was driving down Smith Road in Ballville Township on November 10, 2012, she never expected that within a matter of minutes her life would be changed forever after a full-size Chevy Tahoe turned in front of her, causing a near-fatal collision

After being extracted from her sedan, Ann was transported by helicopter to the University of Toledo Medical Center.

"I was in UTMC for I think 10 days and I had a lot of bones exposed that had broken through the skin," Ann said. "After learning about the cause of the accident, several people recommended that I call the Boyk Law Firm."

The woman who had orchestrated and oversaw all types of jobs and employees during her 37 years as

a utility worker at the Michigan Sugar Company suddenly found herself not knowing what would come next.

"I never knew what to expect," Ann said.
"But Mike [Bruno] came down to the nursing home and introduced himself and told me all about what was going to happen and was very thorough. He just seemed like he was part of the family already."

Our office took over the task of dealing with the at-fault party's insurance company and securing medical payment coverage for her out-of-pocket expenses so that she could focus on her long road to recovery.

The accident left her with bleeding on the brain and multiple abrasions on her left forearm and left wrist from the glass of her car window. But the worst injuries were the open fractures to her right ankle and left femur, which required seven surgeries to repair. Ann spent over two months at an inpatient rehabilitation center before starting additional physical and water therapies in between her additional operations.

But through it all, Ann and her husband Larry stayed positive and leaned on the help that everyone in our office extended.

"I think any time we had a question or my husband had a question we would call up and everything was answered very nicely, very quickly," Ann said. "They knew everything, even though the language would be a little difficult in some of the information, but they explained everything when we called and we felt very good."

The Mooneys felt especially appreciative of our Office Manager, Leslie Rombkowski, and grew quite fond of her during the process.

"Thank goodness for Leslie!" Ann said. "We had a good time with her. She made us feel very, very comfortable. She even came to some of the doctor's appointments - she wanted to know exactly what was going to happen. Things are finally coming together!"



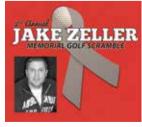
Fall Brings Opportunity To Fight Cancer Through Running & Golfing

September provides the perfect climate for runners and golfers to get outside and two families who are part of the Clyde Cancer Cluster are inviting people from all over northwest Ohio to participate in their events.



The Brown Family is hosting the 5th Annual Alexa Brown Memorial 5k Run/Walk to honor their daughter who lost her battle with cancer in 2009, at age 11. Alexa was known for always looking out for the feelings of others, even from a young age, and we know that she will be there in spirit on Saturday, September 20th at 8:45am in downtown Clyde when the walkers and runners start the race. Participants can take part by visiting www. runtorememberalexa.com or by calling 419-334-7188. Proceeds go to CureSearch, the world's largest childhood cancer research organization.

Golfers are invited to play on the same course where Jake Zeller grew up, worked, and even made a hole-in-one before he lost his fight against brain cancer at age 28. The scrambles



event's shotgun start will be at 9am on September 27th at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course in Clyde, and golfers are invited to stay for lunch and try their hand at the 50/50 raffle, contests, or silent auction for a chance to win many great prizes. Teams can sign up by calling 419-547-0770, emailing 4teamjake@gmail.com, or by visiting www.facebook.com/teamjakezeller.

# **RECIPE:**

# Aunt Freda's Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo

Who knew that this popular restaurant dish could be so easy to make at home? Mix things up by adding other cooked vegetables like mushrooms, onions, or spinach to make a taste that's all your own.

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 pound uncooked pasta
- 2 Tablespoons salt
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 stick salted butter
- 2 cups freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli
- Salt and pepper to taste

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Add two Tablespoons of salt to large pot of boiling water, then cook pasta to desired tenderness. Drain and set aside.
- 2. In a large pan, sauté chicken until cooked all the way through, about 5-6 minutes on each side. Allow to rest for 7-10 minutes before cutting into pieces.



- 3. Cook broccoli until tender, either by steaming or boiling for 3-4 minutes.
- 4. While the chicken and broccoli cook, heat butter and cream in a large sauté pan over medium-low heat until it starts to bubble. Lower heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, allowing the sauce to reduce. Add parmesan, remove pan from heat, and stir frequently until all cheese is melted. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 5. Toss cooked pasta, chicken, and broccoli with Alfredo sauce. Serve immediately.

# CHARLES E. **BOYK**

LAW OFFICES, LLC

Charles E. Boyk

Law Offices, LLC

405 Madison Avenue, Suite 1200 Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone: (419) 241-1395 Toll-Free: (800) 637-8170

Fax: (419) 241-8731





*iPhone* 

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CharlesEBoykLawOffices



Charles E. Boyk



charlesboyklaw



www.youtube.com/ceboyk



Visit Our Blog at:

www.charlesboyk-law.com/blog/

# CRAFTERS, ARTISTS INVITED **TO 2nd ANNUAL CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE**



Handmade jewelry, original art, tasty baked goods, organic candles, and knitted apparel are just a few of the items that will be offered for sale to public just in time for the Holidays and to support a great cause.

Boyk Law's 2nd Annual Crafting for a Cause will be held on Friday, November 7th from 10am to 6pm. The lobby of the PNC Bank Building, located at 405 Madison Avenue in downtown Toledo, will be transformed into a bazaar of more than 40 local vendors from all over northwest Ohio coming together to support the Sparrow's Nest, a Cherry Street Mission Ministries facility that provides emergency housing for at-risk women.

Every dollar from the \$35 booth rental fee and prize raffle proceeds will go directly to the

Sparrow's Nest, and Crafting for a Cause is now accepting vendors of all backgrounds, including those selling original photographs, handbags and accessories, cosmetics, and any and all arts and crafts. Vendors can submit their information by visiting www.craftingforacausetoledo.com or by calling 419-241-1395, or by emailing cwhite@charlesboyk-law.com.

# **CASES OF INTEREST:** EPTEMBER 2014

# Family Suspects That Medical Facility Man Struck While Driving Needs **Staff Accidentally Turned Off Heart** Monitor, Causing Father to Pass Away

An older gentleman survived a serious accident that landed him in the hospital for two weeks, only to lose his life after a nurse allegedly turned off his heart monitor and failed to realize he was having a fatal heart attack. There is also concern that the patient was not being properly fed and that he was allegedly dehydrated at the time of his death, which is why the coroner requested that the cause of death be investigated.

# **Rear-End Accident Causes Serious Injuries After Airbags Fail To Deploy**

Our client and her father were rear-ended with such force that she ended up with five fractured ribs and a bruised spleen. The woman's rib pain is so severe that she is unable to begin the physical therapy that is needed to heal the pain in her neck, and she is still dealing with headaches caused by the concussion she sustained in the accident.

# **Surgery & Faces Heart Issues**

A driver ran a red light and struck our client, causing his car to roll three times, and pinning his hand under the door as it slid on its side. Not only did he need surgery to repair the damage to his hand, but he is now facing serious heart problems, despite never having any cardiac issues prior to the accident. Our client is also undergoing physical therapy to treat pain in his back, hips, and pelvic area, and is still unable to work.



New address or phone number? Help us stay current by letting us know!

Call Anneke at (419) 241-1395 or e-mail her at marketing@charlesboyk-law.com