

The Day Newspaper

December 20, 2006 Editorial

Joseph Moukawsher

Joe Moukawsher, the Groton attorney who died Saturday, was a tough political opponent, a man of immense energy and, most important, a keen intellect. Before he said or did anything, Mr. Moukawsher had thought through the issues and proposed answers to the problem in his head. He was a keen advocate of good government, which is to say, a government of, by and for the people.

He believed strongly in public service, as the record of his life's activities clearly demonstrates. He wore that badge with pride and he had little patience for those who would attempt to control the voters and limit the discussion of issues.

He was a careful and informed attorney, a man who rendered opinions after researching them thoroughly. He loved the excitement of a good intellectual argument and he pressed his cases with strong convictions because of his detailed preparation.

If one needed an advocate, Joe Moukawsher was an obvious choice.

He did not shrink from the rough-and-tumble of politics. Far from it. But in the forefront of his mind there was always a concern for the people.

He provided much of the legal advice that brought the borough of Groton into its present status as a city separate from but within the Town of Groton. He served as a prosecutor, as a city attorney and as a coroner.

Behind the scenes, there was a mild-mannered side to Mr. Moukawsher. He enjoyed a good story and laughed often. Legal and political opponents may not have seen this facet of his personality very often, but it was there.

Joseph Moukawsher was a leader who brought a sense of proportion and judgment to whatever he did. He was a good family man as well. In public and in private, he led an exemplary life.