

TRAGEDY CAUSED BY DRUNK DRIVER AND BAR

A Wonderful Family

Mike and Carol Calistro loved getting together with their daughters and grandchildren every chance they had. Holidays were always special family gatherings. Easter Sunday of 2009 was "one of the best Easters ever." It was the last Easter they would all be together.

Mike and Carol gathered at Gina's house that day with daughters Gina and Angela, and Angela's two beautiful children Ty and Meredyth. The day was full of fun, laughter and plenty of hugs. Grandpa Mike filmed the Easter egg hunt with a news anchor commentary of Ty and Meredyth's every move.

But this story really starts back when Mike and Carol were in the fifth grade. Mike had an undying crush on Carol. He was like Carol's shadow, walking her to and from school every day. The first day of seventh grade when everyone was introducing themselves, Mike pointed to Carol and announced proudly, "I am going to marry that girl." Carol was mortified. She was so mad she refused to talk to Mike for a while.

Mike's love for Carol persisted and Carol grew to love Mike beyond friendship. They were married at age twenty, and later adopted Gina and Angela.

Mike worked as a Minneapolis police officer for thirty years. Carol was a child development coordinator for Saint Anthony/New Brighton school district. They both loved their jobs, but family was the center of their lives.

A Life Stolen

Mike and Carol left Gina's house around 8:45 p.m. with Mike at the wheel of the family Toyota. As they headed home Carol commented, "that was one of our best

Easters ever!" Mike headed northbound on a divided four-lane highway. He didn't get far before he saw the headlights of a pick-up truck coming straight at them.

The oncoming driver was drunk. He was so drunk he was going southbound in the northbound lane. He had just left a bar and his blood alcohol content was at least .30. Mike steered left into the grassy median to avoid the truck. The drunk then steered into the median and hit Mike and Carol head on at highway speed.

When Mike came to, Carol was unconscious and choking, unable to breathe. Mike established an airway. With his cell phone in one hand and Carol in his other hand, Mike dispatched an air ambulance. Then he prayed to God, "please spare Carol God, let her live, take me, not Carol."

Mike and Carol's injuries were severe. Mike fought valiantly to survive, but didn't make it. He died six weeks later surrounded by his family.

Navigating an Unimaginable Loss

Prior to Mike's passing, Gina talked with a good friend of her father's who recommended that she call Fred Soucie. Fred told Gina he would be glad to help, dropped everything and immediately drove to the hospital to meet with Gina.

While there, Fred had the privilege of meeting Mike, though he was flat on his back and on oxygen. Mike's condition was guarded because he had pre-existing lung disease from agent orange that he had contracted serving our country as a corpsman in Vietnam. Fred and Mike immediately connected.

Fred said, "Mike was a wonderful loving man. During our several visits before he died, Mike talked about his love for his

wife, children and grandchildren. The last conversation I had with Mike revolved around love and how love is the most important thing in any of our lives. Mike talked about how blessed he felt being so loved by Carol and his children. I told Mike they were equally blessed by his deep love for them. The last thing Mike ever said to me was, 'I love you Fred.'"

Gina recalls that after meeting Fred, Mike had absolute confidence in him. "This guy can take care of things," Mike said to Gina. "When this type of thing is going on," says Carol, "you are in no place to think or worry about legal aspects. Fred was able to navigate a world I knew nothing about. I had every confidence that he always had my best interest in mind. He was taking care of whatever needed to be done, and always in a caring way."

Fred told Carol, "the bar's conduct was outrageous. The bar cannot over-serve a drunk. The bar must be held accountable—not just the drunk." Fred aggressively pursued not only the drunk driver, but also the bar to hold the bar responsible under Minnesota's Liquor Liability Act. He secured a recovery for the Calistro family from both the drunk and the bar.

Carol says of Fred, "it's hard to let go of people who have been there for you like Fred was for us. He continues to check on us. I really feel like if anything major comes up, I can call him for advice and direction."

In talking about the loss of her husband, Carol says, "it is a struggle every day for all of us. Fred kept me afloat. This was a horrible thing to go through, but I know he will always be there for us no matter what."

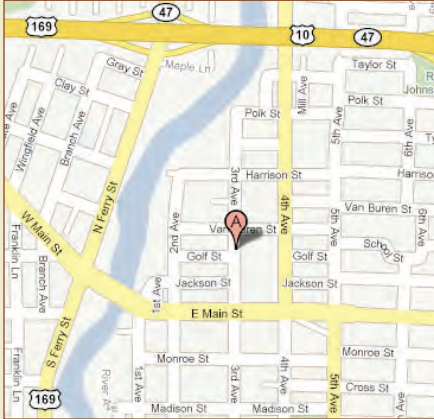
SOUCIE LAW

FOR THE INJURED

100 Anoka Office Center
2150 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763)427-8888 Office
(763)421-2560 Fax
(800)499-2394 Toll Free
info@soucielaw.com Email

Check out our website at:
www.soucielaw.com



Conveniently located in downtown Anoka

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #4190
MINNEAPOLIS, MN



We Care and We Can Help

A MESSAGE FROM FRED



These are my sacred beliefs:

When you are injured you need a warrior to speak strongly for you when you feel your weakest, and fight the fight when you cannot.

The courtroom is a sacred place. It is sacred because ordinary people can find justice against the biggest and most powerful of enemies, such as corporations and insurance companies. There are few such places in our world.

For 34 years I have been privileged to fight the fight and care for you, my clients. My doctors now tell me I need to take care of myself, and that I must reduce my responsibilities.

Happily, Soucie Law will remain open. I will be acting as a lawyer consultant to help you and your loved ones find just the right lawyer to fight for you. I would be honored if you would continue to trust me to do just that as I enter into this new stage of my career.

Over three decades ago, I developed my creed for serving clients. The creed is very simple:

"The client comes first."

Everything else will follow, including success, if you just simply take care of the client first. I have been truly

blessed in my career by following this simple philosophy. I never would have dreamt of the career I've had because of you placing your trust in me to care for you when you needed it. I have also learned who the best personal injury lawyers are who follow this same creed.

God forbid you or yours ever needs us, but if you do, please call Soucie Law *For the Injured* for help. Our number remains 763-427-8888.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to have served you and for letting me continue to serve you.