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## Eulogy: John Mados

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EULOGY -- JOHN MADOS

Saturday, February 23, 2002

It is difficult for me to tell you what is in my heart as I say farewell to my dearest friend. John was a very special person to his beloved wife Suzanne and his loving sister Harriet and to all of us who knew and loved him. I shall always remember him as he was -- a courtly gentleman of the old school with traditional values, a keen sense of right and wrong and a loyal friend who was always there when needed. He was a throwback to the age of chivalry.

His conduct in business was impeccable and reflected the high sense of honor with which he conducted himself in all things. His employees at The Wyndham, some of them of more than thirty years standing, were as devoted to him as he was to them. He was a leader in his industry, having gained the respect of his peers, who elected him as President of the New York Hotel Association. His ethical conduct set a very high standard for others to emulate.

John was the quintessential host and that is always how he described himself -- not as a hotel owner or manager but as a host. His guests were always just that -- guests, as they would be in a private home. He loved the hotel business and was familiar with every aspect of it. He started out washing dishes even before he attended Cornell University, where he received his degree in hotel management. After his graduation, he lived in a succession of New York City hotels, where he was employed in

various capacities for more than four decades. He loved the City and the City will never be the same without him. He was as popular an innkeeper as you ever could find. He cut a dashing figure on the New York Club scene in his youth and was a charming man about town.

John ultimately found the great fortune of his life when he met and married the beautiful, intelligent and talented Suzanne forty-one years ago. Thus began a relationship between two people who were to be inseparable friends, business partners, and passionate lovers until death did them part last Tuesday.

After running the Helmsley Hotel operations, supervising the construction of the Park Lane Hotel and becoming the generally acknowledged managerial authority on New York City hotels, John got the opportunity to operate a hotel of his own. He and Suzanne renovated The Wyndham from the ground up and today, as the last privately owned hotel in the city, The Wyndham has become an exemplar for the entire industry. And that is so because it reflects the wonderful personalities of the people who made it happen. There, the guests love the hosts and the hosts love the guests. It is no wonder that show business people seek out The Wyndham as their home away from home.

And the operative word here is love. The hotel reflects the love that Suzanne has for John and that John has for Suzanne. It reflects the love they have for their friends and that their friends have for them. It reflects their love for the many worthy causes, such as the Mount Sinai Hospital, that benefitted

from their generosity. It reflects the love that John has for his associates in the hotel industry and the love they have for him. It reflects the love of all the employees who came to say goodbye to John last night and the love he has for them. I have used the present tense advisedly, because the love that I have described is eternal and does not end with John's passing.

I loved John because he was a wonderful and devoted friend. He laughed at my jokes, told me his views on politics and politicians and spoke to me of various athletic contests. He regaled me with stores of show business personalities and other interesting people that he has hosted over the years. He was a dinner companion without peer, he was there when I had medical problems as I tried to be there for him, and he listened to my stories of my life in the law.

John's passing leaves a great void in my life, and I will miss him terribly. But I will always carry his memory in my heart, for my love for him is also eternal.

Roger J. Miner  
U.S. Circuit Judge