

former mayor, business administrator, and township attorney, pleaded guilty to taking part in various bribery schemes involving developers. Later, Waks and his wife, an attorney who served on the Wayne council after her husband's departure, sued the wrongdoers for damages in an innovative racketeering lawsuit that brought the township more than \$300,000.

Running for mayor, Waks refused to take campaign contributions from those doing business with the township.

"He drove me nuts in this office," Beverly Tierney, administrative assistant in the Wayne mayor's office, said of her friend and former boss. "He never let anyone do anything. He would not accept a gift. A restaurant sent over a tray of cookies, and he had me send them back."

He was sworn in as a Civil Division judge in state Superior Court in Paterson seven years ago today, according to Assignment Judge Robert Passero.

Waks wasn't above getting personally involved in his job, according to Passero. He recalled a case before Waks in which a single mother with children faced eviction for failure to pay rent. "He gave her the money to pay the rent," Passero said. "While liking inwardly what he did, I actually had to admonish him for that as not being appropriate."

For as hard as he worked and as compassionate as he was, Passero said Waks never let the grandiosity of being a judge go to his head. "He was the type of guy who never wore socks. I think he still wore the same ties as he had in high school," he said, with a laugh. "He was very unassuming. Very casual."

Passero added, "He studied hard, he worked hard. In my opinion, he was an ideal judge."

Waks graduated School 20 and Eastside High School in Paterson, and received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. In 1966, he earned a law degree from Georgetown University, where he met his wife. He joined his father, Isadore Waks, in his Paterson law practice the following year. On occasion Waks filled in for his father as attorney for Paterson's Board of Adjustment, and gave the money he earned for that work to his mother, Joan Waks said. Later, Waks continued as a solo practitioner.

State Sen. John Girgenti, D-Hawthorne, who appointed Waks to state Superior Court, said Waks was "a perfect candidate for the bench, because he got along well with everyone."

Waks received a lifetime appointment to the bench before the state Senate Judiciary Committee in May, Joan Waks said. Family members brought a wheelchair because he was weak at that point, but Waks stood for a brief speech about how "important it was to serve the people," said his wife.

"He really was so proud to be recognized for the work he did," she said. "He loved being a judge."

Waks quit smoking about 15 years ago, his wife said. She said he expressed his fear about dying and said he was "not ready to go." "I don't think he believed it 'til the end," she said. "He died like he lived, stubbornly."

In addition to his wife, Waks is survived by a brother, Jay Waks, of Larchmont, N.Y.; his children, Joseph Waks and his wife Nancy Slowe of Bayonne; daughters Jennifer Kennelly and her husband Thomas, of Pompton Plains; and Melanie Graceffo and her husband Gerald, of Cranford, six grandchildren: Cole, McKenzie, and Aidan Kennelly, and Gordon, Gabriel, and Isabel Graceffo, and what his wife termed "his two granddogs."

Joan Waks said she would hold a "family-only" service Monday. Waks, who was proud

to be Jewish but nonpracticing, will be cremated, she said. A memorial service will likely be held Aug. 4 at DePaul High School in Wayne, where Waks sold coffee at Friday bingo games long past the time their children attended the school. Wayne Mayor Scott Rumana ordered flags to fly at half staff for 30 days to honor Waks.●

HONORING FAUSTA SAWAL

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I recognize Mrs. Fausta Sawal for her outstanding service in senior citizen communities in our home State of Washington. Mrs. Sawal was selected among 16,000 volunteers to receive the Senior Companion 2007 Spirit of Service Award.

The Spirit of Service awards are given to individuals who have demonstrated both leadership and a commitment to service within their communities. Mrs. Sawal has been a true role model in the community, helping senior citizens and disabled adults for more than 16 years. During her service with the Volunteers of America Senior Companion Program in Seattle/King County, she made a profound difference in the quality of life for dozens of people. Mrs. Sawal was there to call 911 when one of her clients suffered from a heart attack. She also provided assistance when another client fell from a bus and needed to be taken to the hospital. Time and again, Mrs. Sawal demonstrated her caring nature and her ability to effectively assist individuals in a time of need.

Mrs. Sawal has not limited her work to helping individuals. She has been a leader within many community organizations. Currently, she is the president of the Senior Companion Program Advisory Council, a member of the Filipino Community Center, and a volunteer at both the Asian Counseling and Referral Services and the International Drop-In Center. Mrs. Sawal has been active in each of these organizations, taking on many responsibilities including organizing special events, assisting case managers and clients, assisting with in-service trainings, procuring sponsors, and recruiting volunteers.

In addition to her role in the community, this amazing woman has raised eight children. Mrs. Sawal has more than 20 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. In 2004, she was chosen as the Mother of the Year in Seattle's Asian community.

I would like to thank Mrs. Sawal for the positive impact she has had on so many lives in Washington State. Both her past activities and her current pursuits are helping to create healthier and happier communities. I am sure Mrs. Sawal will continue to make significant contributions to her family and in the elderly and disabled communities in Washington. Mrs. Sawal is a remarkable woman, and I am pleased she is being honored for her years of dedication to helping others.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF NELSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

● Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a county in the Commonwealth of Virginia that is celebrating its bicentennial anniversary. Throughout this year, Nelson County residents will gather to celebrate their county's history and founding.

Nelson County is nestled in the rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, midway between Charlottesville and Lynchburg. It was settled by colonists of English and German descent, as well as by the Scotch-Irish, whom I proudly recognize as my ancestors. The county was officially founded in 1807 and named in honor of Thomas Nelson, Jr., third Governor of Virginia. Nelson County is now home to about 14,500 people.

For those who call Nelson County home, it is a comfortable place to work and live. Nelson County is also a community in the truest sense of the word. This was most clearly demonstrated when neighbors came together and offered comfort and helping hands after Hurricane Camille caused widespread destruction in the county in 1969. Today community members can look to each other and remember with pride how they came together under hard circumstances to make Nelson County prosper once again.

Nelson County's economy is based on agriculture and natural resource-based industries such as timber and quarrying. The scenic surroundings have also attracted recreational development in recent years, making the county an outdoor enthusiast's haven. Outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking along the magnificent Appalachian Trail or to the top of Crabtree Falls, the highest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River, as well as canoeing and fishing on the James or Tye Rivers and skiing at Wintergreen Resort.

Many Americans may not be familiar with Nelson County by name, but millions have had a glimpse of what life was like in this rural community due to the writings of Nelson County native, Earl Hamner, Jr. During the Great Depression, Hamner began writing of his experience growing up in Nelson County. These writings eventually provided the substance for "The Waltons" television series.

The Nelson County Museum of History, which is currently being developed, will soon offer visitors opportunities to learn the rich heritage and rural culture of Nelson County through events, exhibits, and educational programs.

The rural community of Nelson County has much to remember and much to be proud of.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Nelson County and its residents on their first 200 years and in wishing them well in the future.●