

Memories of Integrity, Respect, and Professionalism

by Mark K. Vincent



Mark K. Vincent is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Utah.

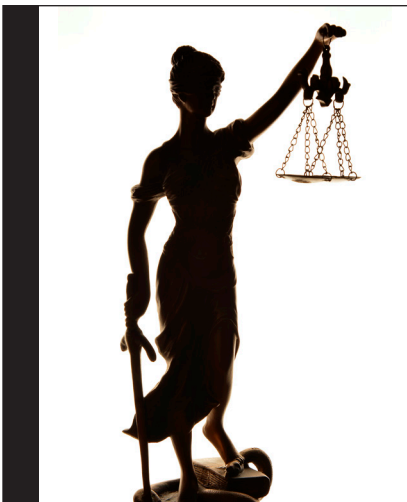
The other day I was looking around my office and noticed that I have collected many treasures, souvenirs, and mementos over the years that mean a great deal to me. Many of these items remind me of a loved one, a tough trial, a favorite vacation, a treasured memory, a special place or event in my life. Over the years, some of these items have been put in a drawer and set aside to make room for new items. But all of them brought back many cherished reminders and markers along my life's path and legal career. In essence, they remind me of where I've been and what I hold most dear.

A few years ago, a real estate agent friend of mine was telling a group of us that if we ever wanted to sell our homes, we'd need to prepare by removing souvenirs, photos, and other personal effects so that prospective buyers could imagine their own stuff in the house. Afterward, I realized that if we ever did that, our home would feel very different, even though it would be the same structure. I mentioned to my wife that it would be like ripping out our family's

heart and soul, removing all of the reminders of love, laughter, experiences, and memories that had made our house a home.

Such reminders and markers are unique to each of us. They reflect our individual personalities and values. Most have very little monetary value, but the upsurge of cherished thoughts and memories they bring make them priceless. They warm and inspire us to cherish people and appreciate experiences in our lives.

As we step into the future, both professionally and personally, it is my hope that we will go forward creating a wake of memories that include integrity, respect, and professionalism. ☺



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