



PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNER

VOLUME XVII - NUMBER 3

WINTER 2003

In remembrance of our dear friend and fellow Board Member here at the PLA, who has passed away, we are dedicating this issue of the Newsletter and the several following additions to Henry McConnell Ingram, Esquire. Throughout these issues you will find articles Hank submitted to the Newsletter over the years. Please take the time to remember...

Henry McConnell Ingram

(1939-2003)

A Professional, a Comrade...a Friend

"One Man I Will Never Forget"

Many years have passed since I came to know Henry Ingram. He became a profound part of my life, my family's life and the Pennsylvania Landowners' Association (PLA).

It wasn't long after my battle with the Government had begun, that I met Hank...

I was at a point in the proceedings where I realized that winning the case on the Farming Exemption would be a hollow victory due to the Government accusing me of building a golf course, without a permit.

Doug Foster, of the Atlantic Legal Foundation from New York, came to speak with me about the Environmental Laws. It was at this time he suggested that I make contact with a firm by the name of Buchanan-Ingersol out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In his opinion, with all probability, they were best suited for me. I contacted the firm immediately and awaited their response.

It was approximately a day or two later when an attorney and his associate from the firm came to our home. The gentlemen introduced themselves as, Henry Ingram (Hank) and John Ward. We sat down and began discussing the matters at hand. After 3 (three) or 4 (four) hours of conversing around the kitchen table between family members and these gentlemen, we became aware of the Un-American way that the Environmental Laws are being enforced.

Hank and I found that we had many beliefs in common pertaining to issues such as, wetlands, Scenic River, exceptional value streams, cold water fishery and

just plain Property Rights in Pennsylvania, as well as the Country.

At this point the PLA had already been established and it wasn't long until Hank and I became friends. He also took on the task of legal council, representing the Organization. Hank also became a Member of the Board, who, from day one, became active in our Organization and published at least one article in nearly every Newsletter. Hank was able to remain on top of the many issues that brought us together, not only as friends, but as fellow Board Members in the PLA. We were in contact more and more often, discussing the many concerns we both shared. We became very close in our thoughts and ambitions.

Hank was a staunch advocate of Property Rights and I am sure that anyone involved in the issues at hand will miss Hank, more than I can put to words. He was determined and focused. There were times when fatigue would attempt to get the best of Hank, but he pushed on. He pushed for you...he pushed for me and anyone else who extended themselves in need, with questions and concerns. He went out of his way to offer advice and guidance. He stood up for what he believed and he stood firm.

I remember early in our friendship Hank said he went along to get along, but as time passed, he had realized that the 'go along to get along' approach was destroying our American way of life.

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Hank and I frequently talked about the injustice. We talked about the "Tucker Act" and the difficulty going through the system in order to obtain compensation. The ordeal of waiting, 4...5...6 years before the Government sued the party involved...before the individual, business or corporation can file a claim against the Government. I believe the average waiting time is approximately 12-15 years and in some cases, have been in limbo for as much as 40 (forty) years, such as *Palazzolo v Rhode Island*. Without Hank, I don't believe I could have gotten through the Tucker Act. Hank was very honest and he was always forthcoming with his expectations. He never pretended it would be easy, he was up-front with his anticipation of how long the process would take, how hard it would be to try to be heard in an unjust system.

Hank spent a lot of Pro-bono time on Property Right issues. For example, in my case, \$500,000.00 in attorney's fees to get me through Local Federal Court; all lost because 3 (three) appellate Court Judges over-turned Judge Mencer's Local Federal Court Decision. Then came hours and hours to Appeal to the Supreme Court, knowing that the chance of getting hit by lightning is greater than actually getting heard there, because of the Tucker Act. Then came Brief after Brief in Claims Court and because of Appeals, much more time and money were exhausted. Yet, through all of this, Hank never had an inclination to give up. He and I both knew the important changes that needed to be made. We knew and still know the overwhelming struggle it will take to get the Governmental Leaders to listen and change the unjust Regulations that keep landowners and property owners from using their property without compensation. Our Courts are saying that the Government can take 90%-95% of our land, without considering it a taking. What do you say?

Voice your opinions through email: info@palandowners.org

Hank knew our Constitutional Rights and that of the Fifth Amendment...we will miss him greatly.

Robert Brace/Vice President, PLA