

A Loving Father's Day Tribute to An Amazing Man, James D. Tanos, Esq.
An Incredible Legacy that Spanned a Lifetime

"As most customed as I am to public speaking ..."

James D. Tanos always started his speeches with this trademark phrase. Those who were one of the lucky ones to hear that opening line knew there was going to be a call-to-action from this great orator. James D. Tanos, Esq. eloquently led his fellow Hellenes from the 1950's through 1980's, as one of the most memorable and extraordinary leaders in the history of the Greek-American community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

In order to understand the motivation and deep-felt passion for leadership and greatness, we need to start with this incredible man's humble beginnings. Jim was an only-child and his parents, who were married by a picture-marriage, divorced very soon after he was born. By the time he was only 4 years old, the Great Depression of 1929 devastated his family's meager savings, requiring him to sell pencils on the street corner just to earn a few pennies. From a child, Jim learned how to survive under the most extreme hardship conditions and against all odds.

When he was just a young boy, Jim caught pneumonia that required him to undergo a serious operation to repair his lungs. Since he and his mother would go to Atlantic City at the Jersey Shore every Summer, the doctor told her that the salt air and water would help him recover faster. For several years thereafter, Jim became the mascot for the lifeguards at the Atlantic City beach. He learned to swim in rough waters and trained with the men, running at the water's edge for miles. This strict regimen and acumen for athletics was the early beginnings of his love of track. The practice and conditioning of running in the water sharpened his skills and strengthened his body, so that his efforts of running on land were that much more efficient and unparalled.

When it was time for Jim to go to high school, there was only one that would be considered, Central High School, which was one of the most prestigious public schools in Philadelphia at the time. Jim soon

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