

The Honorable Jan L. Brodie  
Fairfax County Circuit Court  
4110 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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My name is Gilbert M. Grosvenor, a resident of Fauquier County, Va. For 59 years I have been employed by the National Geographic Society, working in both the editorial and business departments. I have served as the magazine editor, President and CEO, Chairman and presently as Chairman Emeritus.

For more than 40 years I have known Christopher Kloman, his wife, Pamela, and their children. For 30 of those years we lived next door, or as near neighbors, in McLean, Va. We became close friends, shared many common interests, even vacationed together.

On one occasion, Chris joined me as a crew member to sail my boat to Nova Scotia. Living in cramped quarters for several days aboard a small vessel requires everyone to be sensitive to others, compatible as a group, willing to share chores and, above all, to be reliable. I choose shipmates very carefully. Although seasick, Chris never missed a watch, never complained about his malady; nor did he lose his sense of humor. Responsibility to others is a core value to him.

We shared the joys, and sometimes the tears, of watching our families' children born, raised, marry and procreate. He is God Father to my youngest child, whom he follows closely and advises to this day. Indeed, I believe that Graham chose a career in emergency management in addition volunteering with fire and rescue partially because of "Uncle" Chris's dedication to, and fulfillment from, community service.

Chris and I share a common interest in woodworking, so I have admired his tireless energy and commitment to Habitat for Humanity. After years of volunteering there, he rose to become a crew chief. Such activities are in his DNA. Particularly impressive, was his leadership in raising money and helping to build a mission church for Habitat in the Dominican Republic.

Chris always participates in community fund-raising activities such as the Christmas Revels, a singing and dance group; Once he even cheerfully agreed to play the aft end of a horse!

Professionally, I had the privilege to serve as co-chair of a Potomac School Board of Trustees committee to determine the feasibility of expanding the school to a full K-12 status. Because Chris was head of the upper school, I worked very closely with him for almost a year. Although I knew well his position on this

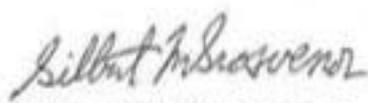
critical issue, he never lost his objectivity, nor tried to sway the committee when it sought his council.

Some forty years ago, my wife and I built our house next to the Klomans. Our driveway circle was on a steep slope, necessitating a retaining wall. Being naive, I decided to build the 60 foot curved stonewall myself. Quickly proclaimed "the great wall of McLean", my neighbors guffawed at the ambitious project. Early on, Chris showed up, heavy work gloves in hand, and asked to help. Thanks to him, we succeeded.

This is the Christopher Kloman that I have known and loved for more than four decades.

Thank you, Judge Brodie, for reading my letter.

Regards,

  
Gilbert M. Grosvenor