Each year it is with both sadness and warm memories that I reflect upon some of the special members we have lost since our last annual message. This year is no exception. Some details about each of the individuals clearly represent simply a snapshot of my recollections and fall vastly short of any kind of summary of their individual contributions. In this reflection I often find meaning in the work we do, primarily because life is all about the legacy we leave for future generations.

Frank Basile – So many folks have so many memories of this larger-than-life individual. Mine focus on the very STRONG sense of presence that Frank always had, even when he said nothing. It always seemed to me that Frank could have been type-cast as a Southern judge or lawyer because he was a person who was gentlemanly yet who instantly commanded respect. When he did speak everyone listened. He was a wonderful courtroom orator who garnered admiration through his keen intellect and clear perceptions. Each year Frank would commend the work of CU and offer any help we needed. As most of you know, Basile, and Testa have played a key role in CU’s successes over the years as Todd Heck has represented the collective interests of CU and our members on many occasions.

Newspaper Obituary, Daily Journal, August 30, 2005

FRANK G. BASILE, 70
Lawyer, active community member

Frank G. Basile Esq., 70, passed away on Aug. 29, 2005, in University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia after an extended illness.

Born in Vineland, he was an area resident of Vineland and Ocean City. Frank was a graduate of Vineland High School in 1953. He graduated from Temple University with honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts in communications. He also graduated Temple University Law School in 1963. During his years at Temple, he was involved in various clubs and organizations such as sword society; Temple University men’s honor society, Delta Sigma Rho; natural forensic honor society; Alpha Phi Delta, social fraternity: historian, secretary; debate club, varsity debate team and president the fourth year; Temple University speaker bureau and president the fourth year; and Circle-K – University service club (associated with Kiwanis International). Frank was employed by various law firms in the area, including Tuso, Gruccio & Tuso Esqs.; Kavesh & Basile Esqs., where he was a partner; Kavesh & Basile P.A. as a senior member, and Basile & Testa P.A., where he served as president. Besides the many organizations Frank belonged to at Temple University, he also was greatly involved in community organizations. Frank was a member of the Vineland Jaycees in which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award “Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1965. He also belonged to the
Vineland YMCA on the membership committee physical committee, the Cancer Crusade as a solicitor promotion chairman, the Vineland Free Public Library as a book sale chairman, the Vineland High School “Drop Out” Program where he was a counselor, and the Camden Diocese House of Charity where he volunteered his time. Frank also was a former program chairman of the Vineland Democratic Club, he was the Cumberland County Freeholder candidate in 1966, was on the Vineland Jaycees Legal Counsel from 1967 to 1975 for the Vineland YMCA and also was a part of the Cumberland County Sewage Authority, where he served as commissioner for four years and as acting secretary for one year. Frank volunteered on the American Heart Fund. He was a former coach and proctor on the Vineland High School debate club, he was a professional division chairman in 1975 or the Vineland United Fund, he was the little league baseball coach from 1971 to 1973, and the coach and manager of the Babe Ruth Baseball League from 1974 to 1978 and was vice president in 1978. Frank was an arbitrator in the American Arbitration Association from 1979 to the present, as well as the designated arbitration for the Mandatory Auto Arbitration Program for the New Jersey Supreme Court from 1984 to present. Frank was a certified civil trial attorney in 1985 and recertified from 1992 to 1999 for the New Jersey Supreme Court. He was the Cumberland County Democratic party chairman from 1994 to 1999, was awarded the Vocational Service Award in 2001 by the Rotary, and was president on the Cumberland County Bar Association from 2001 to 2002. Recreationally, Frank also enjoyed various clubs. He played on the Slow Pitch Softball League from 1964 to 1967, was a member of the National Rifle Association, the American Trapshooters Association, the Cumberland Riflemen and was involved with the Bay Atlantic Symphony, serving as vice president for the past three years. Frank was a solicitor for Cumberland Community College and Cumberland County Improvement Authority. He was on the special litigation counsel for the Millville Housing Authority. Aside from the many achievements in his life, Frank and his wife, Michele, enjoyed traveling worldwide in recent years.

He is survived by his wife, Michel N. (Morgen) Basile of Vineland; one son, Frank II and wife Amy G. Basile of Ocean City; two daughters, Brooke F. Basile of Miami Beach, Fla., and Danielle (Zukerman) and husband Robert Carroll III of Port Norris; one granddaughter, Katheryne Carroll; two grandsons, Robert Carroll, and Stephen Basile; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, George and Marianne Lods of Vineland; eight special nieces and nephews, Roz and Gene Williams of Wilmington, Del., Andrea and John Vastano of Centerton, Amy and Scott Jensen of Wilmington, and Jeffery and Paige Dunlap of Centerton; eight grandnieces and grandnephews. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Amelia Basile; and one sister, Nancy and husband Robert Dunlap Esq.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday at Rone Funeral Service, 1110 E. Chestnut Ave., Vineland. A committal service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday from Sacred Heart Cemetery Chapel, 741 E. Walnut Road, Vineland. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Vineland.

Arrangements are under the supervision of Rone Funeral Service.
Donations may be made to Frank C. Basile, Esq. Scholarship Fund, c/o Cumberland County College, P.O. Box 1500, Vineland NJ 08362-1500; or Bay Atlantic Symphony, 59 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.