



## Ms. Margaret Ann Reigle

May 3, 1944 - March 2, 2018

Margaret Ann Reigle beloved wife of the late Casimier Charles Jowaiszas; dear sister of Patricia Reigle Benoist and J. Robert Reigle; devoted sister-in-law of Nancy Nastasi Reigle and the late Howard Benoist; dear aunt of Sara Romine, Ian Benoist, Robert A. Reigle and Jennifer Reigle Cook; dear great-aunt of Reid and Ryan Romine and Heston and Anaston Benoist.

In 1990, Margaret Ann Reigle founded The Fairness to Land Owners Committee (The FLOC) to assist "mom and pop" landowners protect their private property rights from government's excessive land-use controls. Over the last ten years, her tireless efforts have aided thousands of individual landowners and obtained generic solutions for countless others across the country. Employing diligent research and exposing the most egregious cases in the national media, testifying before Presidential commissions and Congress, as well as orchestrating massive letter writing, fax and phone campaigns, Reigle was instrumental in forcing the Bush and Clinton administrations to rein in over-zealous bureaucrats, as well as bring the private property rights issues to heated debates and votes in Congress and state legislatures.

Reigle's work and the plight of small landowners has been featured in a plethora of national electronic and print media and she has been a keynote speaker at numerous national conventions. Working with pro bono attorneys and consultants, she has assisted in legal cases on behalf of landowners and filed numerous amicus curiae briefs in federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

With a passion for fairness, resourceful creativity, detailed research, and dogged tenacity, Reigle grew The FLOC into the largest, most influential national grass-roots private property rights organization in the country.

Her work began in the Spring of 1990 when Ms. Reigle volunteered to help elderly and ill neighbors when federal government bureaucrats declared the couples' retirement laws and land-use regulations and found that thousands of other "mom and pop" landowners

across the country were significantly and negatively impacted by federal regulations that far exceeded the laws authorized by Congress. Armed with extensive facts, Reigle was determined to expose the problem, assist with "mom and pop" landowners, and seek a congressional resolution.

Compelled by standards of fairness, balance and the Constitutional protections of the Fifth Amendment (which states that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation), Reigle founded The Fairness to Land Owners Committee in July, 1990. As Chairman and as results-oriented problem solver, Reigle's mission for the organization was to assist landowners individually and generically - not just on the rural Eastern Shore of Maryland, but on a national basis.

"Reigle's war started after she heard what the new wetlands definition has done to an elderly neighbor. She formed The Fairness to Land Owners Committee...and the grass-roots backlash against federal wetlands imperialism was under way. And soon Congress was paying heed." -Warren Brookes, Forbes Magazine, 09/21/1991.

Reigle's in-depth research, scores of Freedom of Information Act requests, and attention to detail armed her with facts about government regulations as well as federal and state laws. Based on that research, she created one of the most extensive data banks on land-use and environmental issues. In addition, she also compiled a comprehensive analysis on the leadership, tactics and funding of the national environmental organizations.

"Property owners say environmentalists have gone too far. They're organizing into a powerful nation-wide coalition and their battle cry is the environmental movement has become an environmental disaster. They are made up of developers...to ordinary citizens like Peggy Reigle." Michael Guillen, ABC Nightline, 02/04/1992.

Thousands of landowners joined The FLOC and sought assistance with their land use problems. Creativity and resourcefulness helped Reigle simplify complicated laws and regulations and package individual cases. The most egregious cases were thoroughly documented, vetted and presented to the media. Her tenacity enabled her to obtain extensive national media coverage for the organization and its abused "mom and pop" members. Reigle, her organization and its members have been featured on national television, including ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour. In print media, she and FLOC members have been featured in numerous influential newspapers (including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, U.S.A. Today, The Washington Post, Investor's Business Daily) and national magazines (including Reader's Digest, Forbes, Insight, Reason).

Reigle's energy and leadership ability put her in demand as a keynote speaker at numerous annual conventions. Her success in Congress and in the media, as well as The FLOC's extensive data bank was sought by hundreds of state and local grass-roots groups across the country. She was also enlisted to co-host a property rights series on National Empowerment Television.

"Among the Leaders of the private property rights movement is Peggy Reigle..." Keith Schneider, *The New York Times*, 02/16/1992.

"If the property-rights movement has leaders, Peggy Reigle is certainly one of them. Her most recent newsletter has been making waves on Capitol Hill because it urged congressmen to support a particular bill reauthorizing the Clean Water Act. The bill would actually define wetlands, which is something that Congress has not yet bothered to do." Tom Bethell, *The American Spectator*, 08/1994.

Reigle also published a monthly newsletter in order to enlist new members, report on the status of cases and pending law suits, and activate readers to lobby Congress on pending federal legislation. In addition, The FLOC's newsletter was helpful in educating Congress, as well as the media.

Members of Congress (from both chambers and both sides of the aisle) enlisted Reigle's expertise to analyze, critique and draft legislation. And because of her knowledge, grass-roots following, and media notoriety they asked her to testify at numerous Congressional hearings, as well as provide and prepare individual victimized landowners to testify. When key property rights legislation was before Congress, C-Span enlisted Reigle for a live debate against the Professor of Environmental Law at George Washington Law School.

"Purists could argue that, technically, Peggy Reigle isn't a lobbyist. ...But Peggy Reigle is doing what all effective lobbyists do. Using every tool at her command, she's making sure her side is heard. That means writing letters to members of Congress, to the White House and to newspapers; starting the Fairness to Land Owners Committee; carefully documenting cases where people have been denied the right to use their property; taking her cause to the media; giving speeches, testifying before Congress, at hearing, wherever anyone will listen. Mary Hager (staff writer with Newsweek), *Tomorrow-International Environmental Magazine*, 01/1992.

As an important lobbying tool, Reigle maintained and published a Private Property Rights Voting Index - a tally and ranking of every member of Congress on their voting record on

property rights issues. The comprehensive Voting Index, fax network with hundreds of state and local grass-roots organizations, and The FLOC's active membership were successful in influencing numerous property rights votes in Congress and impacting several Congressional races.

"Talk to any of the staffers on Capitol Hill (Republican or Democrat) in the spring of 1995 and ask them who is the most influential person redrafting the nation's environmental legislation in this session of the Congress, and they will say: "No question: it's Peggy Reigle." With a budget of a mere \$15,000 a year she runs an all-volunteer organization that has gathered 17,000 disaffected landowners from all states, produces a newsletter, and gets constant press. Most important, Reigle has won such sympathy and confidence among the key congressmen that she is now more of an insider than a lobbyist, more aid than advocate. Says, Richard Miniter (staff writer with The Wall Street Journal), who is writing a book on the movement, "Reigle has had a seat at the table at nearly every important private property rights strategy session in both houses of Congress, while well-heeled lobbyist were left outside." Peter Samuel, "Enviros, Regulators Meet Their Match," Mining Voice, 05/1995.

Strategically, Reigle recognized that Congressional action needed to be shored up and supplemented with judicial precedent. Therefore, she enlisted public interest law firms and pro bono attorneys and consultants to take landowners' cases to the judicial system. In addition, Reigle filed amicus curiae briefs in numerous cases in federal courts of appeals, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Service and interment private. Please omit flowers. Memorials in her name may be made to Symphony Manor 4301 Roland Ave. Baltimore, MD 21210 or Gilchrist Hospice 11311 McCormick Rd. Suite 350 Hunt Valley, MD 21031.