

Other Areas of Practice**Importance of Philip's foibles | Marcel Strigberger**By **Marcel Strigberger**

Marcel Strigberger

(April 13, 2021, 11:06 AM EDT) -- A few words about Prince Philip. He displayed a number of exceptional characteristics worth highlighting.

Firstly he was both amused and amusing, being well known for his sense of humour. One memorable quip was when he performed a ceremony in 1969 for a new annex of the Vancouver city hall, saying, "It gives me great pleasure to declare this thing open, whatever it is."

He had the fortitude and wisdom to expose his human foibles and show us that royals need not always be solemn or perfect to elevate a situation. I doubt there were any negative repercussions to the boo-boo. I never heard anything about Vancouverites clamouring to secede from the Commonwealth.

The prince was definitely the royal family's humour standard bearer. I just can't imagine Her Majesty the Queen starting off an official address saying, "knock knock."

Another impressive quality Philip displayed was humility. He was unassuming. Of course he partook in stiff neck royal functions but unlike the other royals, there was this mischievous playful gleam in his eyes. A VIP at Toronto's Royal York Hotel once told me that when the royal couple stayed there during a visit, Prince Philip would sometimes leave the hotel, wearing a bit of a disguise, and go for an unofficial walk, so to speak, mingling with the subjects. He would ride down on the service elevator and saunter about the downtown area,

I never asked whether he ever went into any of the stores. I could easily see him visiting a shop or two, maybe a Starbucks. To preserve his identity, he would have to be careful. It might attract undue suspicion were the barista to announce, "Your Grande with vanilla syrup is ready, Duke."

And if he did shop, did he use a credit card? That too might attract unwanted attention. I did not Google whether the royals use credit cards but if they do, I have a hunch that the bank would not dare allow them to expire. In any event using cash would be much safer. I'm sure Philip would have been impressed with the images on our coins. He would no doubt look at say our dime, and mutter to himself, "Whose face do I see here?" And given his naval background, he'd flip it over and be impressed, uttering "Uh huh! A sailboat."

Aside from Prince Philip's quality characteristics of humour and humility, I would say he was very patient and tolerant, accounting largely no doubt for his successful marriage, that lasted over 70 years. What leads me to this observation?

Firstly, the flowers. How many times have we all witnessed the Queen at some event or other being presented with yet another bouquet of flowers? She must have accumulated greenhouses full. Given my experience whenever flowers end up in our house, there are only so many times you can get take getting confronted with the request, "Honey, can you find a vase?" Philip must have had the patience of Job.

As well he was most understanding to put up with his wife's never ending criminal prosecution duties. I am talking about the Queen's 24/7 pursuit of every criminal in the Commonwealth, adding her title to every name on the court docket. I have never heard of the prince ever saying to the Queen, "I

know you have to take these matters seriously but for once can you just forget about that shoplifter in Edmonton? Can you e-mail the Crown's office and tell them this weekend, Regina is taking a break."

I have yet to see a criminal case reported as something like "*Blank v. Henderson*."

Prince Philip lived to the ripe age of 99. Wasn't this Wayne Gretzky's jersey number? Here was another great one.

Marcel Strigberger retired from his Greater Toronto Area litigation practice and continues the more serious business of humorous author and speaker. Visit www.marcelshumour.com. Follow him @MarcelSHumour.

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