

We write as Bob Mueller's former colleagues at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

On March 20, 2026, Bob passed away at the age of 81. Since that day, he has been deservedly extolled by numerous prominent figures across the political spectrum – from Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama to former Attorney General Eric Holder – for his devotion to duty, commitment to public service, and significant contributions to law enforcement and national security.

The tributes have largely highlighted Bob's heroic war record and his service over many years as a high-level DOJ official, as FBI Director, and as Special Counsel. Those were eventful chapters in Bob's life, but there is another chapter we'd like to highlight in this letter: his service as a line-level Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia in the mid-1990s.

In January 1993, Bob left DOJ employment as the Senate-confirmed Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division, where he had overseen numerous high-profile matters of national and international significance like the John Gotti organized crime prosecution and the Lockerbie bombing investigation. He joined a law firm but lasted only a short time in that job before he started to look for an opportunity to return to public service.

As a resident of Washington, D.C., Bob didn't have to look far to find that opportunity. At that time, the District of Columbia was in the midst of a violent crime epidemic, with more murders per capita than any other American city – earning it the infamous title of "Murder Capital of the United States." City and federal law enforcement agencies were working hard to stanch the killing, but needed help. Bob heard about that need and, like the young Marine who intentionally positioned himself for assignment to a combat tour in Vietnam, he wanted to join the fight. He called then-United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Eric Holder to offer his services, gave notice to his firm, and soon thereafter started as a line prosecutor in the Homicide Section.

The Homicide Section of 1995 was a far cry from the genteel surroundings of Bob's recent positions as Assistant Attorney General and white-shoe law firm partner. Life in that section was a constant state of barely controlled chaos. As Bob arrived for his first day, he'd have encountered the daily routine of frenetic activity – AUSAs scrambling to track down missing witnesses; sleeping night-shift detectives waiting for witness interviews and court appearances; traumatized family members appearing on behalf of their lost loved ones; civilian witnesses nervously contemplating the prospect of testifying against an accused killer; and the seasoned leaders of the Section – Dave Schertler, Dan Friedman and Heidi Pasichow – walking the halls to support the troops.

Bob loved what he saw that day and – notwithstanding a fully-deserved reputation for buttoned-down orderliness – he learned to embrace the disorder. Soon Bob was completely in his element in the Homicide Section, popping into colleagues' offices to get investigation and trial advice, volunteering to help overloaded colleagues, and sharing beers with us at the end of

the day. Bob's enthusiasm for the job and for being part of the team was evident throughout his tenure in DC, including during his eventual service as Chief of the Homicide Section.

In addition to proving himself to be an exceptional homicide prosecutor, Bob also earned the admiration and affection of people across the D.C. criminal justice system. The Homicide detectives quickly took to him, as he earned their gratitude and personal loyalty with his commitment to their cases and to them. Defense counsel respected him for his unfailingly forthright manner and collaborative approach. And the judges immediately identified him as both a talented trial lawyer and a good example of strong but measured advocacy on behalf of the Government.

Most importantly for this letter, Bob earned admiration and affection from us – his fellow AUSAs throughout the Office. While he was a bit intimidating at first due to his soldierly bearing, his reserved demeanor, and his recent status as a top DOJ official, we quickly warmed up to him. We did so because we saw that he was motivated to do the job for just the right reasons – because he cared deeply about protecting public safety and he was devoted to his AUSA colleagues. Those are two of the finest things that can be said about a prosecutor, and in that sense Bob truly personified what it means to be an AUSA.

Bob went on to arguably more important jobs after a few years. But he often said that he never had a better job than working for justice as an Assistant United States Attorney, and he was always very proud of his service in Washington, D.C. We are also proud of our service together, and we remain thankful that Bob joined our ranks during that trying time and that he was – and always will be – one of us.