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## Memorials

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# Memorials



## KENNETH L. ARNESON (1918-1986)

Kenneth L. Arneson was born February 13, 1918 in Fairdale, North Dakota. Prior to entering law school, Mr. Arneson had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, serving as a pilot and in other capacities, from 1943 to 1962. In 1944 his plane was shot down by anti aircraft fire. Mr. Arneson, although wounded, was able to parachute to safety. However, he was later captured and held as a prisoner of war in German occupied France. With the aid of the French underground, Mr. Arneson managed to escape. He later participated in the Berlin airlift. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Arneson had obtained the rank of major. Mr. Arneson attended the University of North Dakota School of Law where he received a national award from the American Law Student Association as the most outstanding Student Bar Association president in the country. After receiving his Juris Doctorate degree in 1965, he was associated with the present firm of Caldis, Arneson and Tingum in Grand Forks. He also served as Assistant City Attorney for Grand Forks from 1965 to 1975. Kenneth Arneson died on July 7, 1986, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, two children, and one grandchild.

ERWIN H. BRENDEL  
(1919-1986)

Erwin H. Brendel served the community of Mohall, North Dakota and Renville County for more than thirty years. Born in Odessa, Russia, Mr. Brendel came to the United States as a young boy. After graduating from the University of North Dakota in 1941, he served in the United States Army during World War II. In 1951 he received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School and returned to Fargo, North Dakota to become claims attorney for the Farmers Insurance Group. In 1954 Mr. Brendel moved to Mohall and became City Attorney. In 1955 he also took over the duties of State's Attorney for Renville County. He held both positions until 1985. Erwin Brendel died on July 16, 1986, in Rochester, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife and four children.

CLEMENS F. KELSCH  
(1890-1987)

Former district judge and long-time attorney Clemens F. Kelsch, died at his home on January 2, 1987. Born in Rosenthal-Odessa, Russia, and raised on a farm near Linton, North Dakota, Kelsch graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1915. From that time on he devoted his life to the law. In 1915 Judge Kelsch began his law practice in Mandan. He served four years as Mandan City Attorney, eight years as Morton County State's Attorney, four years as First Assistant Attorney General, and four years as Special Assistant Attorney for the Public Service and Water Conservation Commissions. In 1962 he was appointed to the district bench; he was reelected in 1968. Of the hundreds of civil cases he heard, only twenty-six were appealed and just six reversed. As district judge, he helped revise the state's juvenile delinquency laws and draft the Uniform Pattern Jury Instructions. A veteran of World War I, Judge Kelsch was active in the Mandan American Legion, Mandan Elks, and Knights of Columbus. In 1966 he was made a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory by Pope Paul VI. Judge Kelsch is survived by his wife, five sons, two daughters, twenty-five grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

PAUL K. PANCRATZ  
(1921-1986)

Paul Pancratz, senior member of the Fargo law firm of Pancratz, Yuill, Wold, Johnson and Feder, died of a heart attack on April 12, 1986. Born in Egeland, North Dakota on May 19, 1921, Mr. Pancratz received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota in 1943. Shortly thereafter he was rushed to Europe to serve as an armored officer in the invasion of Europe and the final battles of World War II. After working several years in Pennsylvania, Mr. Pancratz and his wife, Leota, returned to North Dakota where he enrolled in law school. Mr. Pancratz graduated with distinction, Order of the Coif, in 1952. After serving as Assistant Research Director of the North Dakota Legislative Research Committee for one year, he came to Fargo to practice law. He became a member of what was then the firm of Burnett, Bergeson, Whittlesay and Shermoen. Over the next thirty years he served as a member and chairman of the Title Standards Committee of the State Bar. Mr. Pancratz was a dedicated member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and a devoted father to his five children.

FRANCIS JOHN SMITH  
(1926-1986)

Francis John Smith died December 6, 1986, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife and one daughter. After serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, Mr. Smith returned to North Dakota to complete his undergraduate work at Bismarck Junior College and the University of North Dakota. In 1952 he graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree with distinction, and began his legal career with a Bismarck law firm. In 1970 he opened his own office in Bismarck and practiced law until he retired in 1982. Dedicated to his community, Mr. Smith was active in the Bismarck Chamber of Commerce, the McCabe United Methodist Church, Burleigh County Red Cross, Bismarck Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army, Bismarck Masonic Lodge, and Scottish and York Rite Bodies.

