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Memorials

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Memorials



RALPH W. BEKKEN

(1918-1985)

Judge Bekken was born in 1918 in Pingree, North Dakota. Following his graduation from the University of North Dakota, Judge Bekken served in World War II from 1942 to 1945 with the Army Signal Corps attached to the 32nd infantry in the Pacific. After the war he was enrolled in the University of North Dakota School of Law and graduated in 1952. He then moved to Stanley where he practiced law for thirty years. During this time he also served as the Mountrail County States Attorney and the County Justice. In 1982 Judge Bekken was elected the first full-time County Judge for Burke, Divide, and Mountrail counties. Judge Bekken was a member of the North Dakota Judicial Council, the Judicial Planning Committee, and past-president of the Northwest District Bar Association.

JOHN L. BURGUM

(1920-1985)

John L. Burgum was born in Washburn, North Dakota in 1920. He attended the University of North Dakota and served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. He returned to UND where he received his law degree and was admitted to the North Dakota Bar in 1949. He practiced law briefly in Bismarck before moving to Riverdale, North Dakota. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Land Acquisition Department from 1950 to 1959. He continued his employment with the U.S. Army Corps in

various midwestern cities until 1970. In 1970 he returned to Bismarck where he was employed in the Right-of-Way Division of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Burgum retired in 1982. He is survived by two daughters, one son, and six grandchildren.

JOSEPH DIETCHMAN
(1936-1985)

Joseph Dietchman was born in Auburn, New York on March 1, 1936 and died on March 30, 1985 at the age of forty-nine. He was employed with the Wahpeton Police Department while he completed his undergraduate work. He commenced his studies at the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1971. After graduating, Mr. Dietchman became associated with the Ackre & Britton law firm in their Minnewauken, North Dakota satellite office. He purchased the Minnewauken practice from the Ackre & Baer firm in 1975. Mr. Dietchman became States Attorney of Benson County in 1974 and held that position until his death.

WILLIAM W. EICHHORST
(1908-1985)

William W. Eichhorst attended law school at the University of North Dakota, graduating in 1933. He practiced at Killdeer, North Dakota for a short time, but is best known for his practice at Medora and Belfield, North Dakota. After he returned from World War II, Mr. Eichhorst was an active American Legionnaire. He held memberships in Masonic Orders and was active in community service. He held the position of City Attorney in Belfield and in Medora, and was active on the school board. William W. Eichhorst died on June 8, 1985.

MARTIN C. FREDRICKS
(1912-1985)

Martin C. Fredricks passed away on May 25, 1985. Judge Fredricks served as a District Court Judge for the Southeast Judicial District from 1960 until his retirement in 1983. Prior to his selection to the district court bench, he served as a police magistrate for Jamestown and as the Stutsman County States Attorney. He became a member of the North Dakota Bar in 1936 after studying law as an apprentice and passing the bar examination. He was a member of the Stutsman County Bar Association, the State Bar Association of North Dakota, and the North Dakota Judicial Council. Judge Fredricks also had a distinguished record with the United States Army in World War II.

WILLIAM A. KUNKEL
(1914-1985)

William A. Kunkel was born June 10, 1914 in Fessenden, North Dakota. He received his law degree from the University of North Dakota in 1938. Mr. Kunkel was associated with his father in the Carrington Ford dealership for many years. Following the sale of the business in 1960, he engaged in private practice until his retirement in 1975. He served as Municipal Judge for the City of Carrington, and as County Justice for Foster County. He was active in civic affairs, community activities, and politics. William Kunkel died June 16, 1985.

GEORGE E. SORLIE
(1912-1985)

George Esterly Sorlie passed away on August 5, 1985. After receiving his J.D. from the University of North Dakota in 1941, he worked for the Federal Department of Labor. Later, he practiced law in Grand Forks until 1943 when he began private practice in Buxton, North Dakota. In 1955, Mr. Sorlie moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota where he practiced law until his retirement in 1975. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, and two grandchildren.

LYLE G. STUART
(1922-1985)

Lyle G. Stuart was born on October 17, 1922. He graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1949, and was engaged in private practice at Hettinger, North Dakota until 1978. Mr. Stuart was elected district judge of the Southwest Judicial District in 1978 and served in that capacity through 1984. He was engaged in private practice at Hettinger at the time of his death. Mr. Stuart was a military veteran, having served in World War II and the Korean War. Judge Stuart died in December 1985 and is survived by his wife and three children.

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