

Resolution
In Memoriam
of
The Honorable Arthur James Braginton
Judge of the Iowa District Court

Presented to the Iowa Judges Association December 6, 1995

Arthur James Braginton was born March 10, 1905, at Manson, Iowa. He passed away April 14, 1995, at Trinity Regional Hospital, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Services were held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, 1995, at the Chapel on the Hill, Friendship Haven, with Revs. Ron Kitterman and Jan Mills officiating.

Judge Braginton was survived by his wife Lucile, Fort Dodge, Iowa; sons, James, Idyllwild, California; Peter, Eureka Springs, Arkansas; and daughter, Ann Mehren, Oak Lawn, Illinois, with 12 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He was also survived by his sister, Elsie Wright, Bella Vista, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Alice Emeis Braginton, and sisters, Dr. Charlotte Braginton and Dr. Mary Braginton.

Judge Braginton graduated from Manson High School, attended Pomona College in Pomona, California, received his Bachelor's Degree at Grinnell College, attended Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and received his law degree at the University of Iowa.

He commenced his practice of law in 1929 at Rockwell City and served as County Attorney of Calhoun County prior to World War II, served in the United States Army during World War II and was stationed in Germany and France serving with the Judge Advocate Office settling claims for the United State Government, and was awarded the Patton Medal in July of 1965 by the City of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg.

After his discharged from the military service, he established a law office in Manson, Iowa, engaged in the general practice of law, served as City Attorney for several years and also was elected Mayor of Manson for three terms.

He was appointed Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District in 1961 by Governor Norman Erbe and later because of redistricting, became a Judge of the Second Iowa Judicial District, and he retired in March, 1975, and moved to Bella Vista, Arkansas. After the death of his wife, Alice, in 1986, he moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and married Lucile Gibb in 1988 and they made their home at Friendship Haven until his death.

He was a devout believer in the two-party political system and served as Calhoun County Chairman and a delegate to the National Convention of the Republican Party, and he took a great deal of interest in his community and spent about twenty-five years promoting dredging North Twin Lakes, in Calhoun County, and for many years headed this effort in the Iowa Legislature on the part of the Twin Lakes Restoration Association, and North Twin Lakes was finally dredged, bringing back one of the worlds few blue water lakes.

He was proud of his roots, as his grandfather, James Braginton, came to Manson, Iowa, from Michigan in 1879, and in 1900 acquired a section of Calhoun County farm real estate, the title of which remains in members of the Braginton family, and he retained his legal residence as Calhoun County, Iowa, throughout his lifetime, voted by absentee ballot and maintained his membership in the United Church of Christ Congregational in Manson, Iowa.

The Braginton family was interested in good education: His sister, Charlotte L. Braginton, graduated from Grinnell College in the class of 1920. His sister, Mary V. Braginton, graduated from Grinnell College in the class of 1920, and held an M.A. and Ph.D. degree from Yale and an Honorary Degree from Grinnell and Rockford College in Illinois. Mary taught at Mount Holyoke for a short time before going to Rockford College where she served over forty years in many capacities, including acting President. His sister Julie Elsie Wright, attended Grinnell College and graduated from the University of Iowa. His mother attended Grinnell (Academy) in the late 1800's and his father attended Cornell College. Judge Braginton's Will is being probated in the District Court of Calhoun County, Iowa, and the beneficiaries of a Unitrust include Grinnell College, Cornell College, Rockford College, Buena Vista University and University of Iowa Law School Foundation.

Move the adoption of this Resolution and that it be made a part of the records of this Conference with copies to be transmitted to the members of his family.