

In Memory of Carroll E. "Jim" Engelkes

Carroll E. "Jim" Engelkes was born January 28, 1920 in Grundy County, the son of Cornelius and Clara Smit Engelkes. Judge Engelkes' full name was Carroll Eugene Engelkes, however family and friends always called him Jim or Jimmy. Judge Engelkes delighted in telling the story of how he received the nick name "Jim". It seems that his father was not present when he was born and when his father came home he was not enamored with the name that had been chosen for his son. It just so happened that the judge was born with red hair. The Engelkes' who were living on a farm at that time also had a hired man who had red hair and was named Jim. Thus he was bestowed the nick name "Jim" which followed him throughout his life.

As a young boy Judge Engelkes moved to Parkersburg, Iowa with his family when his father purchased the funeral home there and became the funeral director. According to his brother Wilbur, Judge Engelkes' father thought that he was too short to attend college right after his high school graduation so he remained in Parkersburg until he grew tall enough in his father's opinion to attend college. The next year he attended the University of Iowa and subsequently obtained undergraduate degrees in both mathematics and physics. After graduation he joined the Army-Air Corps and served his county in the Pacific Theater as a meteorologist during WW II. When he returned from service he again enrolled at the University of Iowa College of Law where received his law degree.

Judge Engelkes met his future wife at the soda fountain at Schuck's café in Parkersburg. It seems the Judge's Brother Wilbur had gone to the café after a band concert and saw a young girl he did not know with the daughter of the café's owner. Wilbur raced home to tell "Jim" he better get down to Schuck's to meet this new girl, who was an absolute beauty, before someone else started courting her. Judge Engelkes eventually married that young woman Faith Blunt and they had four children three daughters Catherine, Lois and Anne and one son James.

Upon graduating from law school Judge Engelkes entered private practice in Grundy Center, Iowa. He also was elected and served as Grundy County Attorney. In 1961 Judge Engelkes was appointed District Judge in the 1st Judicial District, which included Black Hawk and Grundy Counties. After his appointment

to the bench he moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa with his family where he lived until his retirement in 1984. Judge Engelkes served as Chief Judge of the district during a part of his tenure.

Judge Engelkes was a “very keen student of the law” and a “no nonsense type of judge”. He presided over a number of major criminal and civil cases. Most notable was the Jerry Mark murder trial and the Holden v. Construction Machinery Co. case which is still the gold standard in equity decisions. David Dutton the prosecutor in the Mark murder noted in Scott Cawelti’s book *Brother’s Blood* that Judge Engelkes did a masterful job of presiding during the four week trial which was moved on a change of venue to Sioux City, Iowa. Judge Engelkes loved the trial process and enjoyed engaging counsel in spirited arguments. His demeanor while sometimes stern and impatient never effected his sterling reputation for impartiality and his overriding commitment to ensure that everyone who appeared before him was provided their full rights and a fair trial.

Judge Engelkes retired in 1984 and moved with his wife to New Mexico where he enjoyed playing golf. He also loved to play bridge and was often said to play all four hands as he seemed to know what cards everyone else held.

Judge Carroll E. “Jim” Engelkes died December 12, 2010. He is survived by his wife Faith, his three daughters Catherine, Lois and Anne and his only son James, two grandchildren, a great-granddaughter; a brother Wilbur and a sister Anna Mae.

I move that this memorial be approved unanimously and be spread upon the records of the Iowa Judge’s Association. A copy shall be provided to Judge Engelkes’ family.