

Memorial Resolution: The Honorable Clay LeGrand

Retired Associate Justice Clay LeGrand died unexpectedly Sunday, Nov. 17, 2002, at Davenport, Iowa. He was 91 years old.

Clay LeGrand was born February 26, 1911, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Nicholas and Mary (Liefeld) LeGrand. He moved to Davenport as a child and lived in the Davenport area the rest of his life.

He attended St. Ambrose College from 1928 to 1932. He graduated from Catholic University Law School in Washington, D.C. in 1934. He was president of his senior law class. While in law school, he wrote a political column for the former Davenport Democrat Newspaper.

Clay married Suzanne Wilcox on December 30, 1935, in Davenport. She died June 2, 1990. Clay married Margaret Burrows on December 11, 1993, in Davenport.

He was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1934 and practiced law in Davenport from 1934 to 1957. He was appointed as an Iowa District Court Judge in 1957 and served in that capacity until 1967, when Governor Hughes appointed him as an Associate Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. He had a deep appreciation and respect for the rule of law and the opinions he wrote reflected it. They were always a model of clarity, logic, wisdom and wit, and reflected his lifelong love of the English language. After his retirement from the Supreme Court in February of 1983, he became Of Counsel with the law firm of Gosma, Gallagher and Goebel in Davenport, Iowa, and continued to go to the office regularly until his death.

Clay was a trustee of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust from 1985 until his death. He was a member of the American, Iowa State, and Scott County Bar associations. He was a former president of the Scott County Bar Association and a member of the American Judicature Society.

He served as a member of the Davenport Civil Service Commission. He was one of the organizers and first president of Friends of the Davenport Library. He was a member of the Contemporary Club. He was a charter member and former president of the Davenport Club, and a member of the Outing Club and the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

He had served as chairman of the St. Ambrose University Fund Drive and Sacred Heart Cathedral Fund Drive. He was a lecturer at St. Ambrose College from 1957 to 1967.

He is survived by his widow, Margaret; two daughters, Mary Sue Murray, and her husband, Tom, Sarasota, Florida, and Julie Ekstrand, Bettendorf; a son, Nick, and his wife, Jean, Sarasota, Florida. He is survived by a stepdaughter, Margaret Getz, and her husband, Tom, Grand Rapids, Michigan; and grandchildren, Clay and Chris Murray, Rebecca, Michael and Geoffrey LeGrand, Megan and Lara Getz, and Ronald and William Ekstrand. Great-grandchildren, Kyle, Tyler and Emily Murray, also survive him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Marie Cotton, Louise Britt and Margaret Klein; and by a son-in-law, Ronald Ekstrand.

His door was always open and he was never too busy to answer a question, or to mentor the new and not so new lawyer, or just be a wise and sympathetic listener. He treated everyone with equal dignity. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. President, I move that the forgoing memorial resolution be accepted by the Association, and spread upon the minutes of this meeting and preserved in the minute book of the Iowa Judges Association, and that a copy of this resolution be provided to his family.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of December 2002. J. Hobart Darbyshire

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