

Memorial for Judge David B. Hendrickson

The State of Iowa lost a good judge and the Iowa Judges Association lost a good friend when David B. Hendrickson died on August 24, 2007.

Judge Hendrickson (fondly known as “D.B.”) was a District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District from his swearing in on March 14, 1973, until his retirement in August of 2001. From August, 2001, to August 3, 2007, he served as a very active Senior Judge in the Eighth Judicial District and also with the Iowa Court of Appeals.

A life-long Iowan, Judge Hendrickson grew up on the family farm in St. Ansgar, Iowa. He graduated from high school in St. Ansgar in 1955. He served our country for two years in the United States Army. He told a clever story that he was shipped to Germany on the same boat in which Elvis went to Germany – just not at the same time.

After completing his military service, he enrolled at the University of Iowa, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree, with honors, on June 7, 1963. After graduation, Judge Hendrickson moved to Keokuk and practiced law with the firm of Boyd, Walker &

Concannon. He spent one year in Des Moines with the infamous Richard Turner's Attorney General's Office. He then returned to Keokuk and became a partner in the law firm of Walker, Concannon & Hendrickson.

During his many years in Keokuk, Judge Hendrickson was very active in the community. Over the years, he served on the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Directors, the Airport Commission, was past president of the local Kiwanis Club, Keokuk Area Hospital Foundation Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Keokuk Country Club. Probably his most enjoyable membership was as a member of the Keokuk Yacht Club. Those of us who practiced in front of Judge Hendrickson could always tell when Judge Hendrickson stayed too long at the Yacht Club the night before when we were in court with him the next day.

Judge Hendrickson was also, of course, a member of the Lee County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association. He served our Association as a Board member, officer, and was President of the Iowa Judges Association from 1992 to 1993. At the time of his retirement in 2001, he was serving as the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District.

Judge Hendrickson was a long-time member of the First Lutheran Church, where he enjoyed teaching high school-aged Sunday school for many years.

Judge Hendrickson loved the law. He also loved working with the soil, from his years of living on the family farm to his backyard garden and yard. He also enjoyed the splendor of boating on the Mississippi River. Clearly, he loved nature, but he wasn't above improving nature with certain creature comforts. When it became too difficult to mow the yard holding his martini, he crafted a cup holder for his John Deere lawn mower that would hold the martini glass for him.

Above all else, Judge Hendrickson was proud of and took great joy in his family. He is survived by his wife Mary Jo of Keokuk. He also has four children: daughter Gretchen Vogelzang, who lives in Virginia; and sons Andy Hendrickson of Burlingame, California; Jeff Hendrickson of Keokuk; and Joe Hendrickson of Iowa City. He has seven grandchildren, all of whom were the "apple of his eye." He's also survived by a sister Jean Edgar of Missouri, and brother Don Hendrickson who still lives in their hometown of St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Judge Hendrickson was a great teacher. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend a substantial period of time with him, in particular during the years that he worked as a Senior Judge. Judge Hendrickson had common sense, integrity and a real compassion for those who came before him in the courtroom.

In the last few years of his life, he fought a courageous battle against cancer. Even when he was weakened and sick from chemotherapy and the ravages of his disease, he came to the courthouse to help out and to keep up to speed on what was going on. I think his love for the law helped him live a little bit longer. The memory of his sincere dedication to public service through the judiciary will live on through each of us who were touched by his life.

Madam President, I move that this Memorial of Judge David B. Hendrickson be made a part of the permanent records of the Iowa Judges Association and that a copy of this Memorial be provided to the Hendrickson Family.