

# MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

## DENNIS D. DAMSGAARD

On October 19, 2000, Dennis D. Damsgaard died at the age of 83.

Dennis was appointed a District Court Judge in 1972 and served until 1985. He then served as a Senior Judge from 1986 until 1995. After full retirement, he still continued to serve the First Judicial District as a mediator until his health prevented further service. He had a particular skill at settling cases. His expertise saved the other District Judges hundreds of trials.

He was born February 16, 1917 and lived on a family farm until 1939 near Galva, Iowa. He then entered the Marine Corps as an enlisted man. He received a battlefield commission during World War II. After the war, he served an additional year in Peking, China. During the Korean War, he was re-called to serve. He then served as a court martial and legal officer in the Marines.

He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1940 and received his law degree from Drake University in 1951. During that time, he was married to Miriam Beckhoff on June 29, 1944. This occurred while both were serving in the Marine Corps. They had two children: Mark of Colorado and Mary of Texas. Just before his death, he received the 50-year award from the Iowa State Bar Association.

One of Dennis's hobbies was competitive trapshooting. Each year the biggest event in Iowa is the Iowa State Trapshoot. At age 68, he shot 200 straight to win the veteran's championship. Another hobby was fishing. He always wanted to serve in Allamakee or Winneshiek County in the spring. As soon as court concluded, he would be at his favorite trout stream. He fished throughout the US and Northern Canada. However, his favorite memories were of trout, bass, and bluegill fishing in northern Wisconsin with friends.

At his memorial service, one of the speakers called him a "uncommon common man". That was Dennis.

As a judge, he was firm but fair. His years with trial experience before becoming a judge made him an expert in judicial trial preparation.

He will be deeply missed by the legal community and fellow judges of the First Judicial District.

**IT IS MOVED** that this resolution be accepted by the Association, spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy sent to his daughter Mary Damsgaard at 292 El Monte, San Antonio, Texas 78212.

***IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION***  
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June 28, 2001

Ms. Mary Damsgaard  
292 El Monte  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Dear Ms. Damsgaard:

As an officer of the Iowa Judges Association, I extend the sympathies of the Association to you upon the passing of your father, Judge Dennis D. Damsgaard. Enclosed is a copy of a Resolution in memory of Judge Damsgaard. This Resolution was read and approved at the General Meeting of the Iowa Judges Association on June 20, 2001. This Resolution has been made a part of the permanent record of the association. Your father will be missed by all the members of the Iowa Judges Association and most particularly by his fellow judges in the First Judicial District.

Very Truly Yours,

Judge Stephen C. Clarke

Enclosure