

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Retired Judge Dring Dewitt Needham died on November 25, 1999, at the age of 109 years, being the oldest living Californian and the oldest former judge of the Iowa bench. Judge Needham was born on August 4, 1890, in Bristow, Iowa. He attended Grinnell College and then went on to Harvard Law School. He entered World War I as a private serving in Europe and was promoted to 1ST Lieutenant and served as a artillery instructor at Fort Still, Oklahoma, and was later promoted to Captain just before the end of the war.

Upon completion of his legal education at Harvard, he practiced law with the firm of Emmert, James, Needham and Lindgren from 1920 until his appointment as Referee in Probate for Polk County on January 1, 1933. He considered his energetic support of President Hoover as one of the reasons for his appointment as Probate Referee and for his appointment to the Bench. On November 16, 1951, Govenor William Beardsley appointed Judge Needham to the Bench.

During his career, Judge Needham was president of the Polk County Bar Association, was a charter member of the Argonne Post of the American Legion, was secretary of the University Club, member of the Blue Lodge. He was in the consistory and commandery of the Masonic Orders and a member of the Eastern Star. Judge Needham was also a member and former Senior Deacon and former Chairman of Trustees of the Plymouth Congregational Church and served as a State Moderator of congregational churches in 1948.

The family home was located at 6015 Waterbury Circle where he resided with his wife, now deceased, and two daughters, Sarah Needham and Ruth Mary Crowell.

On August 4, 1965, Judge Needham turned 75 years of age, requiring him to step down from the Iowa bench. He then proceeded to practice law with Pierce Witmer and Roscoe Riemenschnider until he permanently retired in 1975 and moved to California to be close to his daughters. Judge Needham often commented that he needed to work the extra ten years after stepping down from the bench because judicial "salaries had been on the low side." When he was appointed, judges were paid \$7,000.00 a year. He stated that as soon as he was

able—which was at the age of 85 -- he went into full retirement.

WHEREFORE , be it resolved by the Iowa Judges Association that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the permanent records of this Association and copies be sent to his Surviving children.