

JACK BURNS MEMORIAL

Jack Burns was born on December 22, 1932 at the University of Iowa Hospital, the son of Dan and Vida Edgington Burns. Jack passed away on June 11, 2015 after a short battle with mucosal melanoma cancer.

On August 16, 1964, Jack married the love of his life, Dorothy Roudybush. Jack and Dorothy celebrated 50 years of marriage prior to his untimely passing. Jack was a devoted father to his two children, Jenna and Kevin and a proud grandfather.

Jack was always known as a hard worker dating back to his youth when he helped support his family by working several jobs. Jack was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as a paratrooper during the Korean Conflict from 1954 to 1956. Jack was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 27.

When Jack was honorably discharged from the military, he returned to Muscatine and obtained employment at Stanley Engineering while also attending Muscatine Junior College. Jack later transferred to the University of Iowa where he received his BA Degree and Juris Doctor. Upon graduation from law school, Jack joined the Eckardt-Goedken law firm. Later, Jack served as Muscatine County Attorney.

Jack was first appointed as a municipal court judge in Muscatine, Iowa. Jack later became a District Associate Court Judge and then a District Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial District. In total, Jack served the State of Iowa as a Judge for over 25 years. During his years on the bench, Jack earned a reputation as being a Judge who was firm but fair. Jack always took it upon himself to spend time mentoring young attorneys on what they did right, wrong and upon those things that had room for improvement. He did so in a kind way that always was constructive and never critical. Many attorneys shared stories, after Jack passed, of a time during their career that Jack had mentored them on how to become better at his or her profession. One story included Jack being flabbergasted that an attorney brought a grocery bag full of marijuana to court, in a custody case, to prove the opposing side was a drug dealer. Even though he was not pleased with the attorney's decision, Jack turned it into a learning experience for the attorney.

To discuss Jack as only an accomplished jurist would be to tell only a part of the story. Jack himself was a skilled athlete in multiple sports. In his youth, Jack was a hardnosed amateur boxer, he played fast pitch softball well into his fifties, he bowled multiple 300 games and he was such a fine golfer that the Muscatine Bar Association would not let him use the senior tees in the annual Muscatine County Bar Association Golf Outing until he was 75 years old (and then with many still objecting). Jack hit the

only hole in one in the golf tournaments history. The joke was that Jack was so skilled he elected to hit his hole in one at a time when he knew the bar association was already picking up the tab for the drinks. This past August, the tournament was renamed the Jack Burns Memorial Golf and Social Outing.

Attorneys who knew Jack well viewed him as an extremely honest man who strove to do the right thing as not only a Judge, but as a fellow human being. He was a humble, loyal man, who loved family and friends first and foremost. Jack was dedicated to his wife, Dorothy, and his two children, Jenna and Kevin. When he received the news of his final illness, he voiced his regret that he would not be able to teach his two grandchildren how to play softball and baseball. The world is a lesser place in his absence.

President Neary I ask that a copy of this memorial be accepted and placed upon the permanent record of the Iowa Judge's Association and that a copy of this memorial be provided to Jack's wife Dorothy.