

HON. JAMES WILLIAM BROWN

1930 - 2018

James William Brown was born in 1930 in Des Moines to Lyle and Julia Brown and died of cancer on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at age 87. Jim married Beth (Taylor) Brown in 1957, renewing their vows in 2012. They have four children: Jeff Brown (Diane) of Lincoln NE, Julie Kemp of Conway AR, Mary Brown of Des Moines IA, and Susan Pritchard (Ed) of Houston TX; five grandchildren: Jason Kemp of Branson MO, Jennifer Strait of Benton KY, Amy Pritchard of Houston TX, Daniel Brown (Karissa) of Lincoln NE, and Alyssa Brown of Memphis TN; and six great-grandchildren. Jim had one brother, Richard Brown of Denver, who died in 2016.

Jim was a graduate of Roosevelt High School and earned a B.A. from Grinnell College in 1952. Retired Justice Robert Allbee, who met Jim as a freshman at Grinnell College, and remained a life-long friend, commented at Jim's funeral that he and Jim and some of their college friends occasionally concocted their own extracurricular activities, of a kind that you did not write home about, and which occasioned an acquaintance with the Dean of Men.

After graduating from Grinnell, Jim served as an aviator in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He flew a single engine plane and was credited with six carrier landings. After his military service, he graduated from the Drake University Law School in 1959. During his teenage and college years, Jim competed as a diver and raced sail boats on Iowa lakes. He was the Grinnell College athletic conference diving champion for two years and a member of the varsity golf team. In 1966, he moved his family to Osceola, Iowa, where he practiced law as a partner at Reynoldson, Brown & Van Werden, before starting his own practice. In 1979, Jim was appointed a Judge of the Iowa District Court by then-governor Robert Ray, where he served until 2002. He then served as a Senior Judge on the Iowa Court of Appeals until 2008. At the time of his death, Jim was Of Counsel with the Osceola firm of Reynoldson & Van Werden.

In mid-1975, with the loving support of Beth and their children, Jim entered treatment for alcoholism and remained sober for the remainder of his life. He returned to the practice of law with renewed vigor and just two years later, in 1977, he successfully traversed Iowa in the rolling carnival known as RAGBRAI.

I had the opportunity to practice in Judge Brown's court for the entire time he was on the district court. He was the embodiment of a judge: patient, courteous, impartial

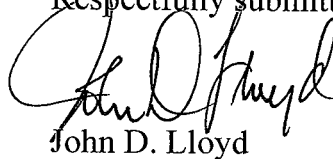
and knowledgeable about the law. He decided cases with carefully crafted and well thought out opinions. He was courteous to court personnel and he was a willing teacher of young lawyers who appeared before him. For years, he shared his careful scholarship with our profession by chairing the Iowa Uniform Jury Instruction Committee.

He enjoyed spending time with his wife and family, RAGBRAI, reading, fly fishing, golf, lunches with the "geezer bunch", a group of college friends who continued to meet regularly for lunch throughout their lives, ice cream, cookies, and walking his dog, Emma. He and Beth were each other's friends and companions throughout their marriage. Some of you will know that Beth was a certified raptor rehabilitator and for years had a collection of owls, hawks, and assorted other feathered creatures at their home. What you probably do not know is that some of those birds eat carrion, dead animals, and that Jim, upon spotting fresh road kill in his travels across the 5th judicial district, was known to stop, and using the shovel he carried in his trunk, place the carcass in a plastic bag and take it home to Beth's birds.

In 2002, I was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Jim's retirement. Over the years, from time to time, someone will comment to me that I took Jim's place. My response then and now is that I did not take his place, I only filled his vacancy. He was, simply put, one of the best judges I ever practiced in front of. No one could take his place.

^{MADAM}
~~MR.~~ President, I move that this memorial be placed among the records of this association and a copy be sent to Beth and the family.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Lloyd