

In Memory of Karl (K.D.) Briner

Karl (K.D.) Briner was born July 5, 1939 in Waverly, Iowa, the son of Burdett and Doris Briner. He graduated from Waverly High School and attended Depauw University for one year. In 1960, he married Sharon Bodecker and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wartburg College in 1961.

After teaching High School, K.D. attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he earned his master's degree and doctorate. He then returned to his alma mater, Wartburg College where he taught for ten years.

In 1976, K.D. and his wife Sharon made the bold move of selling their home in Waverly so K.D. could enroll in the University of Iowa, College of Law. He received his J.D. in 1978, and entered private practice in Cedar Rapids. Sharon then enrolled and also received her law degree from the University of Iowa.

In 1983, K.D. joined the Black Hawk County Public Defender's Office. He rose to the position of First Assistant and was the primary felony trial attorney for the office. In 1993, K.D. was appointed to the District Court Bench by Governor Terry Branstad. K.D.'s appointment blazed a trail from the First Assistant position to the bench that was followed by now Judges Callahan, Harris, Staudt and newly appointed Judge Dryer.

K.D. was known for his patience, compassion and sense of humor on the bench. He never shied from telling a good story or joke. His passion for teaching continued even from the bench. He instructed at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, the Iowa new judge's school and the National Judge's College. He also served as an adjunct professor at Wartburg College, the University of Northern Iowa and Upper Iowa University.

Health problems forced K.D. to retire from the bench in 2007. He moved with his wife Sharon to Missouri to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren.

K.D. Briner died October 4, 2009. He was survived by his wife Sharon; his daughter Karla, whose husband is Ed Schaeffer and their children Anna and Michael; and, his daughter Kristen.

I move that this memorial be approved unanimously and be spread upon the records of the Iowa Judge's Association. A copy shall be provided to Judge Briner's family