

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

On May 8, 2001, Associate District Judge Matthew McEniry passed away. He was 65. Matt had been an associate district judge since 1975 and rotated through traffic, small claims, criminal and juvenile courts for most of his 26 years on the bench.

Judge McEniry was born in Melrose, served in the United States Army and received his bachelor's and law degrees from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Celtic Music Association, Dowling Club, Iowa State Bar Association, and Izaak Walton League. He was also an avid reader, a well-read critic of the political scenes and loved music and travel.

Matt is survived by his wife Catherine; a daughter, Mary Parrish; four sons, Michael, Dan, Joe and John; a brother, James; a sister, Cecilia Cairns; and eight grandchildren.

Judge McEniry was an individual who was well liked and respected by both prosecutors and defense lawyers. He also was regarded as extremely fair in civil matters. Chief Justice Louis Lavorato stated that "He was fair, kind-hearted and compassionate. He always treated people with respect and dignity." The Justice went on to say that he knew that Matt had many admiring friends and he was proud to have been one of them.

Polk County Attorney John Sarcone stated that "There was a spirit to the law with Judge McEniry, and he made sure that spirit was alive in his courtroom. He tried in every way to do what he thought was right."

District Judge Robert Blink, who had clerked for him, practiced law before him and shared the bench with him observed that he had a "kind delivery of fairness to all according to the dictates of the law and his conscience." Judge Blink went on to say, "We know no boastful, harsh or angry word passed his lips while he wore the robe. He rarely spoke of himself and greeted everyone with a smile and inquiry about their well-being. He was the humblest of empowered public servants. Judge Blink also said, "The principles of justice represented by Matt's professional life and the courthouse where he labored are eternal. But in the lifetimes of Matt's friends, the chambers of this great granite heart will be filled with the memories of a good man."

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 relatives.