

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION – JUDGE PETER VAN METRE  
IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

**Peter Van Metre**, 78, of 807 Sheridan Road, Waterloo, Iowa, a judge of the First Judicial District for more than forty years, died on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, at the Western Home Community, Cedar Falls. Pete was born on December 28, 1926, in West Palm Beach, Florida, the son of Horace and Maybeth (Mack) Van Metre. His family moved to Waterloo, Iowa, when Pete was four and he attended Waterloo Schools, graduating from West High in January 1945.

Pete joined the army after graduation, serving in Louisiana and Germany. After discharge, he attended Iowa State Teacher's College (now the University of Northern Iowa) for three semesters. He then transferred to Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree and was admitted to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. In 1978, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Trinity College, one of the first ever awarded by that college to an alumnus.

Pete attended the University of Iowa College of Law 1950-1953. He graduated with a Juris Doctor degree and was awarded the Order of the Coif. After graduating, he served for a year as law clerk to the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for Iowa's Northern District. In 1954, he joined his father's law firm Harris, VanMetre and Buckmaster, later known as Buckmaster, VanMetre and Lindeman. His father Horace, who was appointed to the district court bench in 1958, died of cancer in 1959. Pete was appointed by Governor Herschel Loveless to succeed his father as a district court judge where he served honorably and with distinction from 1959 to 1991, when he assumed senior judge status and continued to serve until his retirement in 2001.

As a judge, Pete was a compassionate person. He showed the utmost respect for all who entered his courtroom, regardless of their station in life. He was bright, articulate and a people person. It was always a pleasure to be involved with Pete socially. It can certainly be said that no one who ever knew Pete disliked him. This is proven by the massive crowd that attended his funeral. One of his best qualities was loyalty. If you were a friend, you were a friend for life.

Pete was a member of Trinity Episcopal Parish, the Black Hawk County and the Iowa State Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, and was active and involved in numerous local organizations and charities.

Pete married Jeanette "Jan" Thede Nass on June 29, 1974, in Waterloo.

He is survived by his wife Jan; his sons Joseph Mack (Susan) Van Metre of Clermont, Florida, and Peter Chapman (Barbara Mahler) Van Metre of Austin, Texas; his stepson

Jeffrey Nass of Dysart, Iowa; and three grandchildren: Laura, Emily and Sam Van Metre. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son Charles Ricker Van Metre.

As Judge Joe Keefe, Pete's friend of more than forty years put it: "I am told that each of us on earth is an individual and no two are alike. If that's true, it's unfortunate because the earth would be much better off if we had a lot of Pete Van Metres. In fact, I am convinced that heaven is a better place because of his presence there."