



**JEFFREY A. NEARY**

Woodbury County  
District Court Judge  
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Woodbury

February 4, 2014

Karen Bates Chabal  
400 West Monroe Street  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

RE: Judge Robert Bates Memorial

Dear Ms. Bates Chabal:

Enclosed please find a copy of your father's memorial as was read to the members at the annual meeting of the Iowa Judges Association in June 2013. Please accept this memorial as a small token of recognition for your father's service to the Judicial Branch of Iowa.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Neary  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Iowa Judges Association

**ROBERT BATES MEMORIAL**  
**IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION**  
**JUNE 18, 2013**

Robert Bates, 80, of Washington, Iowa, died Friday, December 30, 2011 at the United Presbyterian Home in Washington following a lengthy illness. Celebration of life services were held Monday, January 2, 2012 at the United Presbyterian Church in Washington, Iowa.

Charles Robert Bates, known by all as Robert or Bob, was born December 12, 1931, in Burlington, Iowa the son of Charles and Bessie (Blanchard) Bates. He graduated from Wapello High School. Robert graduated from the State University of Iowa, where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1958. Bob formed friendships with law school classmates that lasted for the rest of his life. He and his wife, Martha, treasured the time they could spend with those former classmates and their spouses. Bob was commissioned in the United States Army Reserve and was on active duty from 1955-57.

On November 18, 1962, he was united in marriage to Martha J. Potts in Albia, Iowa. They were extremely devoted to one another. Bob and Martha had two children: Karen and Brian. They were proud of their children and grandchildren.

Bob enjoyed outdoor sports, including golf, skiing and biking, all of which he continued until late in life. He was an avid reader of current news and events. He and Martha loved a good movie.

Robert practiced law in Washington from 1960 until 1981 when he was appointed to the Iowa District Court. Retiring in 1998, he took senior status serving the courts an additional six years. Bob was known as a hardworking judge who always wanted to "get it right." He was a wordsmith, diligently crafting his rulings to make sure he addressed all issues thoroughly.

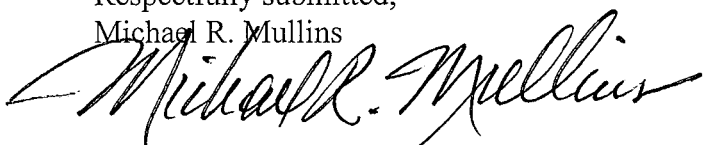
Robert also demonstrated his strong sense of duty. Even after retirement and after completing his Senior Judge status, he periodically came to the courthouse law library to insert pocket parts in order to keep the books current. When Martha's health was failing and he did not have time to locate someone to type for him, he handwrote a lengthy letter to the State Judicial Nominating Commission in support of one of my applications for a court of appeals position.

Robert was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, United Presbyterian Home Board of Directors, the Washington YMCA Board, Noon Kiwanis, Y's Men, and the Washington Community Chest. He was a 50-year member of the Iowa State Bar Association and a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

He is survived by a daughter, Karen Bates (Ed) Chabal of Mt. Pleasant; a son, Brian Bates of Iowa City; two grandchildren, Ryan and Kathryn Chabal; and a sister, Betty Bayne of Marion. He was preceded in death by his wife in 2009 and parents.

Madame President, I move that the Iowa Judges Association approve this memorial as part of the permanent records of the Association and send a copy to the family of Robert Bates.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael R. Mullins





**Robert Bates memorial**  
Michael Mullins to: Jeffrey Neary

01/30/2014 11:06 AM

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Jeff,

This is a follow-up to the email below. Karen Bates Chabal, daughter of the late Judge Robert Bates, emailed me with a follow-up to see about getting an "official" copy of the memorial that I presented in June. Karen also alerted me that she recently moved and has a new address. At your convenience would you sent to Karen whatever it is that gets sent to the family in these situations? If I should send this request to someone else, please let me know.

The memorial should now be sent to:

Karen Bates Chabal  
P.O. Box 893  
Washington, Iowa 52353

Thanks a lot,  
Mike

Michael R. Mullins, Judge  
Iowa Court of Appeals  
Judicial Branch Building  
1111 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Local: Washington County Courthouse  
224 W. Main St., Washington, IA 52353  
Ph: 319-653-7764 Fax 319-653-7787

Email address: michael.mullins@iowacourts.gov

Michael Mullins

Dear Mike,

06/25/2013 12:09:09 PM

From: Michael Mullins/District8/JUDICIAL  
To: Jeffrey Neary/District3/JUDICIAL@JUDICIAL  
Date: 06/25/2013 12:09 PM  
Subject: Fw: Robert Bates memorial

Hi Jeff,

Am I correct that you are the new Secretary of the IJA? If so, I understand you need a name and address for sending the Robert Bates memorial. Please send it to his daughter, Karen Bates Chabal at the address shown in her email below.

Thanks, Jeff. I apologize that we did not get to visit at judges conference.  
Mike

Michael R. Mullins, Judge  
Iowa Court of Appeals  
Judicial Branch Building  
1111 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Local: Washington County Courthouse

224 W. Main St., Washington, IA 52353  
Ph: 319-653-7764 Fax 319-653-7787

Email address: michael.mullins@iowacourts.gov

----- Forwarded by Michael Mullins/District8/JUDICIAL on 06/25/2013 12:06 PM -----



**Karen Bates Chabal**  
<k\_bates\_chabal@hotmail.com>

06/25/2013 12:05 PM

To "Michael.Mullins@iowacourts.gov"  
<michael.mullins@iowacourts.gov>  
cc

Subject RE: Robert Bates memorial

Dear Mike,

Thank you so much for writing and reading the memorial for Dad. His fellow judges meant so much to him both as friends and colleagues.

You may use my current Mt. Pleasant address: 400 West Monroe St, Mt. Pleasant 52641.

Karen

> Subject: RE: Robert Bates memorial

> To: k\_bates\_chabal@hotmail.com

> From: Michael.Mullins@iowacourts.gov

> Date: Mon, 24 Jun 2013 13:53:23 -0500

>

> Hi Karen,

>

> At last Tuesday's annual meeting of the Iowa Judges Association, I read you

> father's memorial as I had last emailed it to you. It was warmly received

> and I had several judges tell me later that they enjoyed learning more

> about Bob.

>

> I gave the original to the Secretary of the Association and it will become

> a part of the permanent records of the Association. It is customary for

> them to send a copy to the family. To what address would you like it sent,

> so I can direct the Secretary.

>

> Thanks for helping me with this.

>

> My Best to you and your family.

>

> Mike

>

- > Michael R. Mullins, Judge
- > Iowa Court of Appeals
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- > Local: Washington County Courthouse
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- > Ph: 319-653-7764 Fax 319-653-7787
- >
- > Email address: [michael.mullins@iowacourts.gov](mailto:michael.mullins@iowacourts.gov)
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