

Iowa Judges Association

Judge Robert K. Stohr Memorial Resolution

Robert K. Stohr was born July 26, 1913, in Muscatine, Iowa, the son of Frank and Lily Howard Stohr.

Bob attended Muscatine public schools, graduated from Muscatine Junior College and the University of Iowa, and received his juris doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Bob married his lovely wife Esther in 1939.

Bob joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II and rose to the rank of Major in his service in the South Pacific. He was a member of that great generation who changed the course of the history of the world as we know it from tyranny to democracy. I knew Bob for 40 years and had lunch with him hundreds of times. He never mentioned the war. Many of us, including some of his family, were surprised to learn that he had been wounded, evidenced by one photograph with his arm in a sling and a Purple Heart.

After the war he opened a private law practice in Muscatine.

When there was a judicial vacancy in Muscatine County, the Commission, in the politics of its day, nominated their first choice, and they also nominated Bob. Governor Harold Hughes fooled them and appointed Bob. It was a good choice. Bob served with a distinguished career on the District Court from 1965 to 1982, and then he senioered for several years thereafter.

Bob was a fine judge, but sometimes we are better known by our idiosyncrasies. He had some, none of them bad. Bob rose before dawn and swam at the Y every morning before heading for court, local or far away. He arrived to unlock the courthouse. Bob loved all the animals. He fed many generations of squirrels on the Muscatine Courthouse square. Bob picked up stale peanuts from his grocer friends and kept them in his bottom desk drawer. Judge Nate Grant of Scott County, in rotation serving Muscatine, ate the peanuts. We had lots of laughs but never told Nate.

Bob was married to his lovely wife Esther for 55 years. He was a good husband and father, and they raised one daughter, Karen. Bob is survived by Karen, three grandchildren, and four great-grandsons. Bob died in Muscatine January 7 this year at age 93 years.

Memorial Resolution of the Iowa Judges Association, presented, passed, and spread upon the books, with copies for his family at Judicial Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 20, 2007.

Hon. C. H. Pelton, Presenter

Odell G. McGhee, Secretary of Iowa Judges Association

Duane Hoffmeyer, President of Iowa Judges Association