

JUDGE ROBERT O. FREDERICK
Winterset, Iowa
January 6, 1914 – October 23, 2003

Judge Robert O. Frederick, 89, of Winterset died Thursday, October 23, 2003.

Judge Frederick was born January 6, 1914, in Cedar Rapids, the son of Joseph and Lillian (Vanous) Frederick. His marriage to Phoebe Jane Nemecek took place on May 30, 1941, in Cedar Rapids.

Judge Frederick graduated from Coe College magna cum laude in 1936 and received his J.D. degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1940. He moved to Winterset in June of 1940 to begin his law practice with Shirley A. Webster. In January of 1942, he was appointed as an FBI agent, serving four years. After returning to Winterset, he resumed his legal career. In 1958, Lewis H. Jordan joined the firm. Judge Frederick was a member of the Madison County Bar Association, the Fifth Judicial District Bar Association, and the Tax Committee of the Iowa State Bar Association, serving as chairman of that committee. Judge Frederick also served two terms as Madison County Attorney. In 1967, he was appointed as a district court judge for the Fifth Judicial District of Iowa. During this period, he served as a member of a joint legislative committee of the Iowa Legislature, completing a revision of the Iowa divorce law. After 15 years on the bench, he retired as a district court judge and elected to serve an additional 10 years as a senior judge until he reached the mandatory age of retirement for senior judges.

In addition to his legal career, Judge Frederick served as a member of the Winterset School Board for eight years and was very much involved in the reorganization of the Winterset School District from 21 independent school districts in Madison County

to the Winterset Community School District. A member of the Winterset Rotary for over 45 years, he helped sponsor a chapter of the American Field Service in Winterset, hosting Winterset's first foreign student. He was a Past Patron of Eastern Star and a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member for more than 50 years. Judge Frederick was very active in the Republican Party in past years and had served as county chairman. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he had served as chairman of the Finance and Stewardship Committee.

In 1996, Judge Frederick was awarded the Coe College Alumni Award of Merit for his distinction in his profession and giving back to the community and Coe College.

He is survived by his wife Phoebe of Winterset; two sons, Ronald A. Frederick and wife Marie of Temecula, California; and Steven R. Frederick and wife Cheryl of Saugerties, New York; two granddaughters, Nancy E. Frederick of Raleigh, North Carolina; and Sara J. Fisher and husband Shane of Marietta, California; one great-grandson, Nolan Fisher; and a sister, Catherine Manville, of Cedar Rapids.

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