

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Thomas Selby Bown, retired judge of the Fifth Judicial District, passed away November 30, 1994, following a long illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Phillips Bown (1949) and Helen Selby Bown (1964); his daughter, Judith Lynn Pugh (1963); and his wife, Ann Bigelow Bown (1981).

He is survived by his brother, Frank William Bown (Mulberry, FL); his three sons, Thomas Michael Bown (Boulder, CO); John Anthony Bown (Flagstaff, AZ); and Alan Bigelow Bown (Phoenix, AZ); and by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Judge Bown was born December 17, 1919, in Corydon. He graduated from Corydon High School in 1937 and entered the University of Iowa in the fall of the same year. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940 and his Juris Doctor in 1942.

He enlisted in the Army in July 1942 and was commissioned in January 1943. During the war, he served in the Far East and in the continental United States. While in Korea, he briefly acted as bodyguard to Korean president Park Chung Hee.

He left the service in September of 1946 at the rank of Captain but continued in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1969 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his Army tour, he completed the course of the School of Military Government (1944) and was qualified as Attorney and Counselor to the United States Court of Military Appeals (1956). In the Army Reserve, he both received training and taught courses in military law and other curricula in the Judge Advocates General School.

Following his tour of service, he worked briefly in Chicago as a fraud investigator, then returned to Corydon in late 1949 to practice law with Harry F. Garrett. He was county attorney from 1951 to 1954, city attorney for several years and served one term on the school board.

Appointed judge in 1964, he served first in the old Third Judicial District and later in the reapportioned Fifth Judicial District. He was president of the Iowa District Court Judges Association (1970) and received the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association Judicial Achievement Award (1989), the Iowa Judges Association Award of Merit (1990), the American Bar Association Distinguished Jurist Award (1993), and the Iowa Daily Press Association Award of Merit.

Judge Bown loved the courtroom, studying and researching law, and especially the host of lawyers, judges, court reporters, and clerks with whom he worked and formed lasting friendships. He also loved Corydon, once having refused feelers regarding a possible position on the Iowa Supreme Court bench to enable him to remain among his many local friends in his boyhood town.

He was a very bright, popular and highly respected judge and was known for his quick decisions and willingness to hear cases anywhere he was needed, even far afield from his district. A November 1993 retirement party honoring Judge Bown at the Chariton Country Club was attended by several hundred persons, and many others had to be turned away for lack of space. He will be sorely missed by his family and numerous friends who knew him to have been a wise, generous and caring man.

Judge Bown was an avid reader with interests that spanned topics ranging from military tactics and strategy of the Civil War to general European history, biography and the latest "who-dunit."

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 children.