

This is a memorial for the Honorable Thomas H. Preacher who passed away May 1, 2012, after a long courageous battle with cancer.

Tom was born in 1950 to Dr. Charles and Ava Preacher in Providence, Rhode Island. His father was finishing his residency and beginning his medical career during Tom's early years so they moved several times along the east coast before settling in the Quad Cities in 1956. He graduated from Davenport Central in 1968 and entered Dartmouth College until graduating Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa in 1972 with a degree in Philosophy. For the next 4 years, he attended Brown University in Providence Rhode Island in pursuit of a graduate degree in Philosophy. As he tells it, he wasn't sure what career to enter, but his father insisted on a job until he found a career. So he sold shoes for a short time and realized a different graduate degree would be better suited to the real world. In 1978, he entered the University of Iowa College of Law. He had found his calling. Law School challenged his intellect and utilized his talent for writing and arguing a point. He graduated in 1980 and started as an associate in the Newport and Buzzell law firm in Davenport, Iowa.

Several years into his career, he met a girl who worked in a nearby office. They went on walks during the lunch hour and got to know each other. Tom's scotch drinking and smoking days came to an abrupt end when he met the love of his life, Terri. They married in October 1984. They had two wonderful boys, Andrew and Charlie. If they gave Tom any trouble growing up he never mentioned it. They both are now college graduates, both have pursued graduate studies in their chosen fields, and both made their father a very proud man.

Tom left the Newport Buzzell firm in 1985 forming the Alexander and Preacher firm which two years later became the Stafne, Lewis, Jasper, Alexander, and Preacher Firm in Bettendorf, Iowa. He practiced there until taking the bench. Tom's practice focused on criminal cases but he maintained a general practice which included juvenile delinquency cases for many years.

I had the privilege of working with Tom when he became a District Associate Judge in Scott County, Iowa in August of 2008. He was a much nicer co-worker than I deserved. He was always willing to help. He had an extreme dedication to his job. He always remained pleasant and calm on the bench; even when faced with the most rude and inappropriate Defendants. Tom and I shared much laughter and I enjoyed the many legal debates that we engaged in over the years. I found his intellectual approach priceless. When I just couldn't get my mind made up about a difficult issue, I could always talk to Tom to get the focus I needed to make

the right decision. His approach to legal issues was different from mine but, in many ways better, because Tom took the time to ferret out even the smallest details to arrive at the best, most complete and just answers. Had he not taken ill, I am sure that he would have moved to a District Court position.

Tom enjoyed reading any and all books. His idea of a fun night was reading a historical biography. He had a huge collection of books, numbering over 4000. He relished history and art. He was sought after for trivia nights and could always share the historical prospective of any event. Tom and his family travelled frequently throughout Western and Eastern Europe. He also travelled the Middle East. He had a love of art so museums were the highlight of any trip for him. Many of his favorite art posters hung in his office and were traded every month or so for different ones. He enjoyed learning of different cultures and viewing the places he so avidly read about. He had a great interest in American History as well. His family still owns land deeded to them by King George and he personally visited many battle sites and museums in his country.

Before his death, Tom brought many legal historical and legal theory books to his office. After his death, he asked that the attorneys and Judges he worked with take any book that sparked their interest. Most of those books are gone, both because they sparked an interest but also because they would remind us of the intelligent, kind friend that we all lost too early.

Please approve this Memorial resolution and I ask that it be spread upon the minutes and a copy be delivered to his wife and sons.

Address: Terri Preacher
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