

RESOLUTION

IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Retired District Court Judge Edward A. “Jake” Jacobson passed away on May 31, 2023, at Sioux City, surrounded by his family. He was 75 years of age.

Jake grew up in Sloan, Iowa and moved to Odebolt, Iowa, his freshman year, graduating with the Odebolt-Arthur Class of 1966. He attended Morningside College in Sioux City where he served as Student Body President his senior year and Editor of the Morningside College newspaper. He received his bachelor's degree from Morningside College in 1971. He continued his educational journey at the University of South Dakota School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1974.

Judge Jacobson spent 26 years in private practice. He practiced in South Dakota until 1981 including time serving as a law trained magistrate. He then relocated to Ida Grove continuing private practice and serving as Ida County Attorney until his judicial nomination. He was national trial counsel for a major equipment manufacturer/product liability defense for 15 years.

Then on October 2001, he was appointed by Governor Thomas Vilsack to serve as a Judge in the Third Judicial District of Iowa and did so for 16 years. The highlight of his career was forming, almost single handedly, and presiding over the Western Iowa Drug Court. He was proud to be a part of a program that provided better opportunities for so many people. On October 9, 2017, at age 69, he retired and reentered private practice doing primarily mediation.

Jake married Nancy Uherka in 1975 and they welcomed a son, Lex, in 1976. He married Cindy in 1981 and ultimately adopted her daughters, Kara and Brittany. Jake and Cindy spent many happy years raising 3 kids and working on never-ending projects on their acreage. He was his children's biggest fan and in later years became a proud grandpa to 4 grandkids. Jake was happiest when the house was loud, crowded, and full of family.

He was an avid outdoorsman and there wasn't a hobby he wouldn't try. Over the years, he tapped maple trees, had a large garden, hunted moose, elk, deer, pheasant, geese and duck, and enjoyed beekeeping. He was involved with Ida County Pheasants Forever for many years. He helped found the Maple River Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, serving for many years as President, was a committee member for over 40 years, and a lifetime sponsor of Ducks Unlimited.

Jake was always quick to lend a hand, such as when he saw an opportunity to help his favorite fishing town's economy by dragging some local buddies to Lake Oahe in Akaska, South Dakota, for a fishing tournament, named after himself of course. The EA Jacobson Iwegian Invitational fishing tournament continues to this day every June.

He loved watching his Packers and Yankees, but his favorite team was whichever one his family played for. He never missed a parent-teacher conference, wrestling meet, track meet, t-ball game, basketball game, volleyball game, concert, dance recital or theatre performance.

To know him was to love him...and be aggravated with him at the same time. He was an expert conversationalist (bullshit artist) and never lost an argument, that he admitted. Everyone that knew him has a Jake story - please remember him now with them all and share - there was nothing he liked better than a good story. A celebration of life is being planned for this summer at the home acreage.

Judge Jacobson is survived by wife Cindy Jacobson of Ida Grove, IA; children Lex (Steph) Jacobson of Battle Creek, IA; Kara (Matt) Minnihan of Onawa, IA and Brittany (Dan) Gilliatt of Winterset, IA; 4 grandchildren: Gwen, Sage, Cecily, and Xavier; sister Nancy (Larry) Arnold of Aberdeen, NC; brother-in-law Carl Carper of Fairview, TX; numerous nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Judge Jacobson was preceded in death by his parents John and Mabel Jacobson; and his sister Janis Carper.

Judge Edward A. Jacobson was a very capable and respected attorney and judge. His contributions to his profession, the community, his friends, and his family were many. He was highly regarded by the Bench and the Bar and by all who had the privilege of associating with him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT HEREBY IS, RESOLVED: That The Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association and the Ida County Bar Association have sustained a great loss in the death of Edward A. Jacobson, a skilled lawyer, judge and a man of high integrity.

The members of the Iowa Judges Association express their sympathies to the surviving members of his family.

Cynthia Jacobson
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