

RESOLUTION

IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Caveat: These comments are an edited version of a longer obituary that can be found at the Sioux City Journal website. I would encourage you to visit and read it, if interested.

Sr. Judge Jeffrey Lee "Jeff" Poulson passed away on April 17, 2023, at his home, comforted by family following a hard-fought battle with 2 different types of cancer.

Jeff was a kind and humble man, and as real as they come. He had a sharp intellect, an unstoppable can-do attitude, a sense of adventure, great love for his family, loyalty and love for longtime friends, and a great love for all things Wyoming.

Born December 22, 1951, in Storm Lake, Iowa, to Burt and Gretchen Poulson, Jeff's early years were spent growing up in the rural Alta, Iowa, area.

At the age of 10, the family uprooted and moved to Sioux City. Prior to settling into their new home, the family took a month-long trip across the western United States visiting many National Parks and Disneyland. On the trip home they crossed Wyoming and his lifetime love for the state began. He had a lifelong passion for reading, especially books about anything military. Growing up he had great pride in uncles who were war heroes, creating a lifetime respect for veterans. He was an encyclopedia of military history and could identify every airplane, warship, gun, or regimental patch on a uniform in a glance.

Jeff attended the University of Wyoming. His time at the University of Wyoming was lifechanging. He spent two summers working on Wyoming ranches, where his love for raising cattle, and his desire to own a ranch began. While there, he not only developed many of the most meaningful friendships in his life, but found the love of his life, Jan Benton, who in his eyes, had the added perk of being a Wyoming native.

Jeff began Drake Law School in the Fall of 1974. Jeff and Jan were married on May 24, 1975, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Jeff graduated from Drake Law School on December 21, 1976, and they moved to Sioux City where Jeff worked at the Corbett Anderson and Corbett Law Firm.

He and Jan moved onto a farm and he began raising hogs. A few years later Jeff and Jan built a log home themselves, which was where he lived until his death.

As destiny would have it, his love of dirt and the cattle business, he accomplished the near impossible. It took 45 years of creativity, determination, blood, sweat and tears, and one roadblock after another, but he built a ranch, and a quality cow-calve operation. (They had over 200 cows). With deep fatherly pride, he was able to operate it with his son Will.

His son William Benton Poulson was born on December 3, 1977, and daughter Whitney Rae Poulson was born on November 26, 1983. Never telling them what he wanted them to be, he intentionally led by example. He was proud of their strong work ethics, resilience to adversity, leadership skills, and their inherited appreciation, and sense of stewardship for the land.

Jeff practiced 30 years at the Corbett Law Firm, where he gained vast experience and helped a diverse array of clients. He always said, "Lawyers are professional problem

solvers." With his agricultural knowledge, the farm crisis of the 1980s was a memorable time in his career. The turmoil cost many farm families their vocations, lifestyles, and accumulated wealth. He made every effort to champion them and received Christmas cards for years from many of them showing huge appreciation for his work and guidance in their dark time of need.

He left the Corbett Law Firm in 2006, to partner with Bruce Thomas for four years.

Then on November 13, 2010, he was honored to be appointed by Governor Chet Culver to serve as a Judge in the Third Judicial District of Iowa. With 34 years as an attorney, having handled a wide variety of cases, he was well-suited as a judge, and as with everything, he gave it his all.

As a judge, he was instrumental in the formation and 2015 launch of the Woodbury County Veterans Treatment Court. The first of its kind in Iowa, the special court is a diversionary program that helps military veterans get their lives in order rather than go to prison. He credited a team, including volunteers from the Veterans Administration, current and former military veterans, and relationships with treatment facilities and volunteers from the police and sheriff's departments, parole officers, all crucial for assisting in its success.

He was proud when the American Legion worked to get the flags from all branches of the military displayed behind the bench in his courtroom. When he called participants to approach the bench, he was amazed they immediately assumed their military bearing. He always figured out what branch they were in, where they served, their rank, and assignment. Without exception, every participant was amazed Jeff had not served in the military. In every exit interview upon graduation from Veteran's Court, participants expressed great appreciation for the program, and many spouses told Jeff the Veteran's Court saved their families. He had 33 participants graduate from the program.

Outside of the court room and ranching, Jeff was an avid fly fisherman. He and his two dear friends literally crossed the state of Wyoming diagonally from the survey marker on the Northeast corner of the state to the marker on the Southwest corner, fishing at every opportunity. The three of them also participated in the Wyoming Cutt Slam, a contest put on by the Wyoming Game and Fish where participants had to catch all Wyoming native cutthroat trout. He proudly displayed his certificate of completion in his office.

A favorite pastime, he spent over 50 years skiing, a love he helped nurture in his children and grandchildren. Whether football, rodeo, volleyball, track or dance, he was there for his children and grandchildren at every opportunity and loved sharing that he had the opportunity to ski with all his grandchildren, including his grandson Griffin at the age of three.

To his family and friends and many, many people in his work life, ranch life, client world and community, all would most certainly agree that Jeff lived and died well and was a role model of a good, true, and honest man.

He is survived by his wife Jan Poulson; children, William Poulson (a Lt. Colonel with the 185th Iowa Air Guard) of Hinton, Iowa, and Whitney Schultze of Bozeman, Montana, and their spouses Allison Poulson of Hinton, and Matt Schultze of Bozeman; three grandchildren, Hannah and Ella Poulson of Hinton, and Griffin Schultze of Bozeman; sister Sue Bowers and spouse Wes Bowers of Sioux City; sisters-in-law Ruth Benton of Chapel

Hill, N.C., and Barb Lawyer and her spouse Bob Lawyer of Cheyenne; and nephews and nieces Matt Bowers, Jessica Fahy, Seth Lawyer, Jake Bowers, Andra Wilkinson, and Natalie Brockmeyer.

Judge Jeffrey Lee Poulson 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 Woodbury County Bar Association have sustained a great loss in the death of Jeffrey Lee Poulson, 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.