

Memorial for the Hon. R. David Fahey
Iowa Judges Association
June 2013



The Hon. Robert David Fahey, Jr., age 62, died October 9, 2012 in Paris, France. Dave was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He attended school in Fort Madison where he met Connie Decker, the love of his life. Dave and Connie married on September 21, 1971, and together they raised a family and supported the community in various ways.

Dave graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1968. Thereafter, he attended the University of Notre Dame where he earned his B.A. and J.D. His professional career included two years in the office of the Lee County Attorney, two years as a District Associate Judge, twenty-three years as a District Court Judge, and six years as a Senior Judge.

Connie was a long time teacher with the Fort Madison Community School District. Dave's knowledge of the law and experience in the courtroom provided the perfect backdrop for his involvement with Connie's high school speech teams. He served as his wife's assistant coach for years and made an important impact on the lives of many students. Area students also came to the courtroom for a first-hand tour led by Judge Fahey. The judge had the children assume the parts of the courtroom participants and always had a "case" prepared for them to try.

Dave also committed a great amount of personal time to the development of young men involved in Boy Scouts. As a scout leader, Dave provided the guidance and leadership necessary for so many to achieve the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout. He was filled with great pride when his son, Evan, attained his Eagle Scout badge.

Dave was equally proud of his daughter, Allison. As a father, he made sure he stayed involved in her life giving moral guidance and support.

Any attorney appearing before Judge Fahey to represent any client, rich or poor, innocent or guilty, was expected to be prepared to fulfill their responsibility to that client. Dave did not tolerate less than best efforts on the part of attorneys because he remained well aware of the serious impact court proceedings have on people and could affect them for their entire lives. He was a strong proponent of young attorneys having a mentoring period by older veteran attorneys who held their profession in the high esteem to which it is rightfully entitled.

Like most of us, Dave and Connie planned their future for their retirement years. They loved to travel. As a senior judge, Dave used his free time to learn the French language. He used every opportunity to slip in a French word or phrase whenever we talked. His ability to learn a foreign language was indicative of his intellectual level. He was brilliant. Dave and Connie would use their French in traveling through France.

Last October, Dave and Connie were living their dream in a Paris apartment they rented for a month. They intended to immerse themselves in everything the historical city had to offer. But, it was not to be. At the age when many of us were or will be working, Dave died. His dreams and those of the love of his life were gone. Our memories of him, however, are not. His passing reminds all of us we must not take for granted the time we have with family.

Dave is survived by his wife, Connie, and his children, Evan and Allison.

Madame President, I move that this Memorial of R. David Fahey be made a part of the permanent record of the Iowa Judges Association and that a copy of the Memorial be provided to the Fahey family.