

MEMORIAL
JUDGE CARL E. PETERSON

Judge Carl E. Peterson, 82, passed away on October 6, 2016 with loved ones by his side. He was born December 28, 1933 in Madrid, Iowa, the son of Atle Leopold and Annetta Iley Peterson and brother to Edward, William and Dorothy Swanson.

Judge Peterson was appointed to the Iowa District Court in 1982 by Governor Robert Ray. He spent an 18-year career as a judge of the Iowa trial court and two years as senior judge on special assignment to the Court of Appeals of Iowa. As members of this Association know, his caseload included the complete spectrum from simple to complex, including a complete array of both civil and criminal proceedings. Judge Peterson frequently commented that "America's unique system of jurisprudence, employing juries composed of independent individuals to hear arguments, weigh evidence and arrive at appropriate conclusions, remains the best possible approach to achieving justice."

Carl attended Drake University and Law School, graduating with his law degree in 1957. Before his judicial appointment, Carl spent three years as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Iowa, four years as a prosecutor, and 20 years in the general practice of law, which included providing legal services to defendants in criminal matters. He spent his professional life as a lawyer and judge and raised his children in Marshalltown, Iowa, where he also served on the Chamber of Commerce as a member and president, as a church officer and Sunday school teacher at Hope United Methodist Church, as a member and past-president of the Lions Club and on the community school board.

After retiring from judicial work, Judge Peterson and his wife relocated to Asheville, North Carolina, where he continued with multiple pursuits, including teaching law classes at AB Tech and South College; taking many courses and teaching law- and history-related courses at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI); serving as a member, officer and president of the Men's Garden Club of Asheville; and serving on the board of the Reuter Center Singers. Judge Peterson had a passion for music throughout his life, playing organ and singing in church and community choirs in both Marshalltown and Asheville. Judge Peterson had a deep love for his children, family and friends, and he took special effort to make plain his feelings and his joy in their accomplishments.

Judge Peterson was a true gentleman of great dignity and integrity, possessing loving patience and incessant generosity and a gentle humor and understanding. He is loved and held in the hearts and minds of his wife of 42 years, LaDean; his children, Andrea, John and his wife Debbie, Tom, Steve, Bill and his wife Sarah, and Dan and his wife Amy; as well as two brothers, Bill and his wife Jane and Ed and his wife JoAnn; thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Judge Peterson will truly be missed.

Ms. President, I move that this memorial be spread upon the records of this Association and a copy sent to his family.