



Retired Judge David W. Watt

April 10, 1943 - October 2, 2017

Retired Judge of the 1st Judicial Circuit Court David W. Watt, Jr., 74, of Murphysboro, passed away at 2:04 a.m. Monday, October 2, 2017, at his residence in Murphysboro in the company of his wife and sons.

David was born on April 19, 1943, in Springfield, Illinois, to David W. Watt, Sr. and Marietta (Cullen) Watt.

David was a 1961 graduate from the Springfield High School in Springfield, Illinois. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1965. He was a member of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity and served as the business manager of the University of Wisconsin Daily Cardinal. He received his law degree from the University Of Illinois College Of Law in 1968 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar that same year. He was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1977. From 1968 to 1970, he served with the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office and from 1970 to 1980 with Hendricks and Watt; and from 1980 to 1982, a partner with Hendricks, Watt and Grace.

In 1982, Watt was appointed to the bench as an associate circuit judge for the 1st Judicial Circuit Court of Jackson County. In 1988, he was elected a resident circuit judge. In 1990, he became the presiding judge of Jackson County. He was retained by voters for additional six-year terms in 1994 and 2000, and continued to serve as a judge in Jackson County until he retired

November 30th, 2003.

During his legal career Judge Watt was a board member of the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation; member of the Illinois State Bar Association serving at times on the Board of Governors, the Justice Section Council and the Assembly; founder and president of the Southern Illinois American Inns of Court; served as one-time Director of the Illinois Judges Association; was a member of the Jackson County Bar Association serving at times as secretary and president; and served on the Illinois Appellate Defenders Commission.

In 1984, he received the Award of Excellence and Meritorious Service from the Illinois Public Defender Association. He also was a speaker on "Litigating Skills", Practice Skills for new Lawyers with the Madison County Bar Association and the St. Clair County Bar Association at the ISBA Law Education Services Seminar in 2002.

David married Candace Koehn on August 14, 1972, in Murphysboro and she survives. He was a devoted husband and father throughout 45 years of marriage. After his retirement David enjoyed rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals and Wisconsin Badgers, taking his dog Snickers to Lake Murphysboro, volunteering for Meals on Wheels, traveling to Las Vegas, spending time with his friends at the Elks Lodge in Murphysboro, breakfast at Cindy B's, and gifting nail files and keychains to his newest friends.

Other survivors include two sons Christopher Watt of St. Louis, MO and Nicholas Watt of Madison, WI; one sister and brother in law Maggie and Chuck Dunning of Bartlett, IL; one brother in law Keith Flynt of Carbondale; five nephews and two nieces Andrew Dunning, Melissa Dunning, Koehn Flynt, Joshua Flynt, Justin Watt, Lindsay Watt, and Darin Watt.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Rick Watt, and one

sister-in-law Sandra Flynt.

His body will be cremated and visitation will be from 3 to 6 pm Friday, October 6th at Pettett Funeral Home, 1418 South Street, in Murphysboro with celebration of life and sharing of memories along with food and libations to follow at the Elks Lodge in Murphysboro at 1809 Shoemaker Dr. In lieu of flowers, Judge Watt had preferred that his family and friends remember him by making a memorial in his name to the Murphysboro Food Pantry or to the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Retired Judge David W. Watt*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. From Hay Edwards grade school to SHS 1961 I did not have a better friend. What a great father, husband, brother. Only person who would tell his mom that he paid me to dance with her at one of our parties.*

Lee Schwartz - October 06, 2017 at 07:34 PM



“ *You will be sadly missed at our SHS reunions, where we shared memories & had such fun, I will always cherish my two nail files and fond thoughts.
May you Rest In Peace in God's loving hands. Our deepest sympathy to the family.*

Janice Durham Webb - October 05, 2017 at 11:18 AM



“ *After every SHS class reunion I would host a gathering in my sunroom at my former home. Laughter, memories and just "plain ole fun" was had by all. You were such a joy to be around. The last reunion you and I attended, you came over and brought the "girls" fingernail files. I will cherish mine forever. You fought the big C bravely. Now you can rest in comfort. I last talked to you about two weeks ago, and I am saddened I will not hear your voice again. May God Bless Your Family. Fondly, Nikki*

A. Nikki (Hudd) Carpenter - October 04, 2017 at 11:37 PM

CD

“ You were a great older brother of wonderful wisdom and jokes. I am so sorry for your suffering, but now you can be with Dad, Mom and Rick.

Chuck and Maggie Dunning - October 03, 2017 at 11:56 PM

KW

“ Kandi and Family,
I cannot begin to tell you what Judge Watt meant to me personally. He believed in me and gave me my first real job in 1990. That completely changed my life. He was a wonderful boss and like family to me all the years I was at the Judges office. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Judge Watt will always hold a special place in my heart.

*Kelly A. Webb
2860 Cedar Run Ct
Clearwater FL 33761*

Kelly Webb - October 03, 2017 at 06:37 PM

TF

“ Candy,

I'm sorry to hear of this. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Tami Boaz (formerly Frank) - October 03, 2017 at 05:06 PM

LW

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Dave.....what a wonderful person he was. I met Dave many years ago thru my dad. I always enjoyed our talks when he shopped at Kroger. Still have the nail file and the key chain antler he gave me. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family!

Lori Bilderback Willson - October 03, 2017 at 10:48 AM

NB

“ *I will greatly miss seeing him every Saturday at the Farmers Market to pick up treats for his beloved pet Snickers. Very nice man with a good joke always.*

Natalie Branca - October 03, 2017 at 09:19 AM