



Judge J. Theut

February 18, 2012

Judge George J. Theut, 85 of St. Ignace passed away peacefully Saturday afternoon, Feb. 18 at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital after suffering a massive stroke at home on Thursday, Feb. 16. Jack, as he was affectionately known, was born April 17, 1926 in Centerline, MI. His parents were George L and Katherine (Weigand) Theut. He attended St. Clements for grade school and DeSalle Collegiate High School in Detroit. The day after graduation, he joined the United States Navy, and served 2 years on the USS Santee. He served in the Pacific Ocean during WWII. After being discharged from the Navy, he attended the University of Detroit for an undergraduate degree and earned a Law Degree from the University of Detroit in 1952. He worked in the Macomb County Prosecutor's office and was with the management staff at the Chrysler Detroit Tank Plant. He moved to Rudyard as administrative assistant to the civil engineer at Kincheloe Air Force base for 8 years. He ran for Mackinac County Probate Judge in 1965 and served faithfully until his retirement 27 years later.

As judge, he helped keep families together, as a war veteran; he was especially sensitive to the problems of veterans, who came to his Court. He was President of Michigan Probate Judges Association, served on the Michigan Task Force on Racial/Ethnic and Gender Issues in the Courts and the Legal Profession; served for 15 years on the Eastern UP Mental Health Board; and was a founding member of the Legal Aid for the Eastern Upper Peninsula. He also served as visiting judge in Wayne County. He was a

member of the VFW; Knights of Columbus; Member of the State Bar of Michigan; and a faithful member of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church. He held a brokers and real estate license and worked in real estate since he was a young man.

On October 11, 1952 he married Betty Larson at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Newberry, and she survives nearly 60 years of a wonderful marriage. Also 7 children ; Mark Theut, Scottsdale, Arizona; Paul & Maria Theut, Phoenix; Chris and Kelly Theut, Phoenix; David and Rene Theut, Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Brian and Diana Theut, Scottsdale, Arizona; Dr. Susan Theut and her husband Buzz Bailey, Georgetown, DC; Annette and Keith Whitman, Escanaba; and 18 grand children. He was preceded in death by his father, George L. Theut in 1975; a sister Gertrude at 4 months old, and a grandson Andrew Whitman at 2 and a half years old in 2002.

Friends may call at Dodson Funeral Home on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 4 to 8 pm with parish prayers at 8:30 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, February 23 at 11 am at St. Ignatius Church with Fr. Pawel Mecwel and Deacon Tom McClelland officiating. Burial will be in St. Ignatius Cemetery with military rites in the spring. Pallbearers will be Doug Goudreau; Daniel Wyers; David Crisp; Don Gustafson; Tim Collins; Mike Lilliquist. Honorary pallbearers will be Wes Maurer; John McKinnon; Barbara Brown; Charles Brown, Prentiss M. Brown Jr.; Tom Evashevski; Giz Brown; Stuart Spencer; Robert Butts; Beth Gibson; Clayton Graham, Tom North, Nick Lambros, Jerome LaJoice and Eric Dodson..

Tribute Wall



“ Judge J. Theut

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Judge J. Theut

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Judge J. Theut

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dear Betty and family. Mary and I were saddened to learn of Jack's passing. He was a great friend and colleague. We wished we were in Michigan and could pay our respects in person but we now spend our winters in Florida. All the Michigan Probate Judges who had the pleasure of working with Jack will fondly recall his tall tales about Stanley and his efficient organization of our summer and winter conventions and conferences. Jack will be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to his wonderful wife and family and his staff at the Court and his many friends. Jack was a memorable man and will not be soon forgotten.*

Raymond L. King - February 23, 2012 at 06:41 PM

SL

“ I was sorry to learn of Jack's death. He certainly struggled and did well handling his infirmities this past year. You are all in my prayers and will continue to keep you in prayer in the weeks to come. God bless.

Sr. Lethia Marie Leveille - February 22, 2012 at 05:33 PM

WK

“ Betty, I want you and the family to know how saddened I am by your loss. I think of Jack as my mentor as a probate judge. I wish we could have attended visitation and services, but we are out of state. Jack was one of the first judges I really got to know, and he taught me many things about judging that aren't written in the books. I will never forget the time we were both serving as visiting judges in Wayne County and he introduced me to the Detroit Institute of Art. I remember his entertaining stories about Mackinac Island, and the love he had for the island. I know from the things he said that he loved his family dearly and will be missed beyond words. My thoughts are with you.

Wally Kent - February 22, 2012 at 04:39 PM

KR

“ Jack was a wonderful friend over the years we served together especially as part time probate judges. I always looked forward to visiting with him at judicial gatherings. The stories he could tell! He always knew how to bring a smile and was never without a smile himself. Am sure the angels have welcomed him to paradise where he is regaling a crowd of saints with his wisdom and wit. God bless Jack and his family.

Kathryn J. Root - February 22, 2012 at 02:43 PM

DP

“ My associations with Jack were too infrequent. I was the probate judge of Alpena County until I retired in 2007--- just a bit too far "south" to see him regularly. But when we did meet, at an occasional judge's meeting, he was always such a pleasure to be with and the source of much interesting perspective and information. I am sorry to learn of his passing. My sympathy to the family.

Douglas A. Pugh - February 21, 2012 at 10:12 AM

WU

“ On behalf of the Probate Judges Emeriti, I wish to extend to Judge Jack's family our sincere condolences. Jack was one of the revered retired judges--one that many of us "younger retirees" looked to for advise during our working years. One of his closest friends in the Judiciary was my predecessor, Judge Jerry Graham of Oceana County, who often spoke fondly of Jack. May Jack now rest in peace knowing that he accomplished "a life well lived!"
Sincerely,
Walter A. Urick
President, Probate Judges Emeriti

Walter Urick - February 21, 2012 at 07:31 AM

SF

“ Well done thou good and faithful servant. Let me express my sincere sorrow to Betty and children. I enjoyed my many conversations with Jack. However I know you all to be people of faith and that faith sustains all at this time.

Steven E. Folrd - February 21, 2012 at 06:16 AM

BD

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sorrow*

Brian and Karen Dekeyser - February 21, 2012 at 05:28 AM

JB

“ *I served as a probate judge with Jack in the 70s and 80s. Jack was one of the nicest judges and guys I have ever known. He will be missed. My sympathy to the family.*

Jack A. Vande Bunte - February 20, 2012 at 05:47 PM