



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

CHIEF JUDGE'S STATEMENT ON PASSING OF RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUDGE WILLIAM F. HOMER

"Judge Homer was known for his even temperament and jovial spirit and that made him both beloved and respected by the bar and by his colleagues. He served the people of Lake County well for 18 years and even though he retired in 1992, he is fondly remembered here at the courthouse. We will miss him," said Chief Judge Diane E. Winter.

The Honorable Judge William F. Homer 89 passed away on August 4, 2020, in Tampa Florida. Judge Homer was born on September 19, 1930, in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania.

Judge Homer attended the Illinois Institute of Technology where he received his bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering. Upon his graduation he served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. After he retired from the Navy, he attended John Marshall Law School where he earned his juris doctorate with honors. He joined and later became a partner with the Law Firm of Fuqua, Fuqua, Winter and Homer in Waukegan.

He was appointed Associate Judge in 1974 and served on the bench until retirement in 1992. Judge Homer liked to joke that his first day on the bench was April Fool's Day and his last day was Pearl Harbor Day. As a respectable Judge, he also had a great passion for music and the arts in Waukegan and throughout Lake County. He enjoyed playing with the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Waukegan City Band. He ultimately was the recipient of the Jack Benny Arts & Humanities Award! His pride and joy was being the co-founder of the award-winning "IL. British Style Brass Band" in which he played for almost 20 years!

While he was not a sports fan, his first sporting event was a New York Yankee's game in 1938 where he witnessed Lou Gehrig hit a home run. After that, he only attended one other baseball game, a Chicago Cubs versus Milwaukee Brewers game in Milwaukee in 2008.

Judge Homer is survived by his loving wife Ludwina of 45 years, his two sons Eric and John, grandson Brett, sister Mary, step-children Tina Zeithammel Brunsman and Rudy Zeithammel, grandchildren Dawn, Rudy Jr, Paul, Danielle, Alexandra, and many great-grandchildren who knew him as "Opa Bill."

He was preceded in death by his parents Fred and Helen Homer, his first wife Nanette Thomas and grandson Cameron.

A celebration of life is planned later on this year in Waukegan, Illinois.

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