



## Judge Marvin D McLaughlin

December 7, 1929 - October 7, 2017

Marvin Dwain McLaughlin was born in Lebanon, Indiana, on Dec. 7, 1929, to Claud P. and Olive I. Payton McLaughlin. He grew up on farms in Boone County Indiana (eventually working his way through college by baling hay), and was graduated from Dover High School in 1948. He went on to Butler University where he enjoyed playing clarinet in the marching band all eight semesters, joined Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and earned his degree in liberal arts. Also of great significance during Marvin's Butler years was meeting Barbara Leonard who became his wife on Aug. 24, 1952, in Russellville, Indiana.

Marvin received his law degree at the Indianapolis Division of the Indiana University School of Law. He opened a law practice in Indianapolis but longed for the small-town atmosphere of his youth. He and Barbara welcomed the opportunity to move to North Judson in 1957 to open a practice there, bringing their 2-year-old daughter, Lynette. His practice grew, as did his family, welcoming Alan in 1957 and Brian in 1963. He was elected Starke County Prosecuting Attorney, serving four years, and became Judge of the Starke Circuit Court in 1963. In addition to family, friends, and members of the Starke County Bar, of special note at that first swearing-in ceremony was former Indiana Governor Henry F. Schricker. He went on to serve Starke County as Circuit Court Judge until he retired in 1992.

Retirement did not slow Marvin down, as he was granted Senior Judge status, traveling all over the state of Indiana to fill the bench in other counties. He also

presided over innumerable mediations and arbitrations, showing a special talent for bringing parties together. Marvin was elected and served four years on the Starke County Council, continuing his tradition of public service. Marvin was a board member of the Starke County Historical Society, a member of the North Judson Kiwanis Club, and a former president of the North Judson Chamber of Commerce. He was active in Bluejay Athletic Boosters, Toastmasters Club, and was a 4-H leader for many years, after having grown up as a 4-H member. He was active in the Starke County Bar Association, the Indiana Judges Association, and was a 50-year member of the Indiana State Bar Association. Marvin was an active member of North Judson United Methodist Church where he served in many capacities including teaching Sunday School and singing in the Chancel Choir. Marvin was honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1992 and received the Henry F. Schricker Award for service above self in 2010. He participated with other notable community members as a Torchbearer in the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay in 2016.

Marvin loved being with his family and friends, and enjoyed woodworking, playing euchre, traveling, jigsaw puzzles, fishing, telling jokes, and watching sports, especially Butler University Basketball, the Indianapolis Colts, and the Chicago Cubs.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law, Nancy Leonard. His family legacy includes his wife of 65 years, Barbara L. McLaughlin, children Lynette K. (David C.) Altman of North Judson, Alan L. (Barbara G.) McLaughlin of Denver, CO, and Brian L. (Dawn F.) McLaughlin of Noblesville, IN, sister Eileen D. McLaughlin of Thorntown, IN, and brother-in-law Charles D. (Janet H.) Leonard of Noblesville, IN. Grandchildren include Evan (Sarah) Altman of Brownsburg, IN, Kenton (Nichol) Altman of Noblesville, IN, Meredith (Aaron) Kaluf of Columbus, IN, Kate McLaughlin of Boston, MA, Reed McLaughlin of Denver, CO, Laura McLaughlin of Nashville, TN, and Tyler McLaughlin of Noblesville, IN. He was also blessed with seven great-grandchildren: Addison and Ryne Altman, Kaden and Kyla Altman, and

Archer, Amelia, and Nora Kaluf.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Central Time, at North Judson United Methodist Church, 210 W Central Ave.

The service will be followed by a time of visiting and refreshments in the church Fellowship Hall.

Memorials may be made to the McLaughlin-Leonard Family Community Fund or the North Judson United Methodist Church Trustees' Building and Maintenance Fund through the Northern Indiana Community Foundation.

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *The judge was a hero of mine. The reasons are multiple, but suffice it to note that I always found leadership and fairness in Mr. McLaughlin. Thank you for sharing him with those in legal need.*

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**Lyle Whybrew** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM

LE

“ I have so many fun and fond memories of Marvin. On Sunday mornings before worship, I was greeted at church with a smile, hug, and usually something funny said. He added to the church choir with his musical talent and quick wit. Oh we loved to sing so many great Christian songs but I will never forget Love Transcending. Life was great at church and Marvin' presence was important. In fact, Lynette would often have to stop choir practice to remind the guys in the back to pay attention and stop having sooo much fun. I felt happy at church. I also loved going to the McLaughlin home which was always welcoming anyone for a time of food and fellowship. I love zinnias because of this man and his beautiful wife. His home was filled with creative wood working from his wood shop in the back and now my home has gifts of wood working all around it. Christmas is a walk through memory lane with his beautiful and creative wood working. On my piano for the past 27 years are the "welcome blocks" he made. We spell almost everything with those blocks and the children have had a blast changing them during seasons or just for fun. In the early years, Mark and I only owned one car, so Marvin would take me to work in the mornings to Knox and drop me off at the hospital. The conversations were delightful and as he drove he would raise a hand off the stirring wheel to "wave" at each passing car. He made people feel worthy of importance. But my favorite memories were during musical practice for the musical "Godspell" that he was in with several from the church. We had the best time laughing and memorizing lines. He was so fun and funny and silly. We often had to stop for a joke or just a laugh. All of us got a chance to take a break from the seriousness of life, our jobs and the news of the world to come together in the church basement to sing, dance, entertain, and be a diverse group of friends who loved Jesus, loved each other and loved others in the community. Money can't buy faith or friendship. Those gifts are God given. As his pastor's wife and friend, I can say I am and was blessed by his life, testimony of faith, diligence to help, generosity to give, continual encouragement and kindness of deeds. His children are blessed to call him daddy and I am blessed to call him friend.

**Lisa Ellcessor** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM

CH

“ *My condolences to you on your loss of Marvin. I have fond memories of you all when I lived in Judson. Charlotte Nielsen Hester (My parents were Dick and Bert)*

**Charlotte Hester** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM

EM

“ *Tribute to my brother: It is difficult to express/comprehend the loss I feel. My brother was a 3rd parent for me, an adviser/counselor & "rescuer" thruout our lives. I literally owe my life to my brother, because he asked for a "sister to play ball with" for his 8th birthday. Thus, I was born for our shared care & joy! Rest peacefully, Marv, knowing your good life has been successfully completed. WE ALL LOVE YOU! Sis*

**Eileen McLaughlin** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM

MJ

“ *A fantastic human being who gave much wisdom to the world and touched the lives of many. May his family and friends find comfort in the fact that he is surely resting in the arms of Heaven. Rest in peace, kind sir.*

**Marilyn Jones** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM

KW

“ *Marvin was determined and he loved life very much. I admired that he did not let his physical limitations stop him from doing the things he wanted to do such as go to church, attend choir, visit friends, and travel. His presence is missed!*

**Kevin Wrigley** - April 29, 2018 at 07:44 AM