



The Honorable William D. Dyke

April 25, 1930 - March 10, 2016

Dodgeville - William D. "Bill" Dyke, age 85, Circuit Court Judge of Iowa County, died of cancer on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Dodgeville.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at HIDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, 605 N. Bennett Road, Dodgeville on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. with a service at 1:00 p.m. Judge Dyke's guest book is provided in the link to Gorgen Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, Judge Dyke suggested memorials to humane societies in Iowa County, Dane County, and Dubuque, Iowa.

Bill was born on April 25, 1930, in Princeton, Illinois, to Alfred and Vinnie (Thompson) Dyke. He graduated from Princeton High School in 1948 and from DePauw University in 1952. While married to Joan (Piper) Dyke, Bill completed his law degree in 1960 at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison where he hosted WISC television and radio programs while working his way through school. He moderated Face the State, a local news program with guests including Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy. He also led the development of the Wisconsin 1964 World's Fair Exhibit.

He became an attorney and entered politics, running for mayor of Madison in 1967. Dyke lost by only 62 votes. He ran for mayor successfully in 1969 and

presided over Madison for two two-year terms during a turbulent time in the city. Dyke was a voice of reason during student unrest, the Sterling Hall bombing, and the Vietnam War protests. He believed in progressive ideas including low-cost city government and addiction-treatment programs. He fostered nascent concepts including school choice and a local grower's farmer's market, which grew into the nationally recognized farmer's market that exists today on Madison's Square.

Dyke ran for governor of Wisconsin and vice president of the United States after his time in the Madison mayor's office. After leaving the city, he raised horses and produced a movie. He was working as an attorney in Mineral Point when he was appointed to the Iowa County circuit judgeship by Governor Tommy Thompson in 1996.

Bill's time serving the people of Iowa County as its circuit court judge for 19 years was his most joyful. He advocated ideas such as treatment programs for addicts rather than incarceration. He believed in teen civic involvement, establishing a teen court where young offenders are evaluated and sentenced by peers. During the housing crisis that began in 2008, Dyke established a mortgage mediation program in Iowa County to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Bill was extremely honored to receive the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award in 2015.

During his free time, Bill was an avid painter. He was known for his scenes of local landmarks including courthouses and wildlife. Each year, he sent out Christmas cards that featured one of his paintings.

Dyke is survived by his wife, Christine Dyke of Dodgeville, and his children Wade Dyke of Florida, Sarah Gardner of California, Kathryn Shefchik and Victoria Greenwald of Wisconsin; his brother, Thompson Dyke; a niece and nephew; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Vinnie.

Thank you for the many kind words and stories about Bill from those who knew him in Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Madison, and beyond. Thank you to Governor Tommy Thompson for first appointing him to the judgeship he came to treasure. Special thanks to the compassionate nurses and staff of Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center and the staff of Gorgen Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *The Honorable William D. Dyke*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *I am the Register in Probate/Juvenile Court Clerk in Richland County and have been for 30 plus years and have clerked for Judge Dyke many, many times. He was a very kind man in and out of the court room. He will be very sadly missed.*

Sandra McNamer - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM



“ *My sincere sympathy to the Family of Judge Dyke who was my respected and appreciate friend for so many years. It was always a pleasure and privilege to enjoy a short visit. He has left his mark of ability and capability on all of Iowa Co. and will be missed.*

Ken Palzkill - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

DS

“ I "cut my teeth" as a new attorney in Judge Dyke's courtroom 15 years ago. I was not from Dodgeville, but set up a solo practice there. Judge Dyke could not have been more welcoming and available. He was always cordial and gracious in and out of the courtroom...to everyone. I represent persons charged with crimes, and I appear in front of many judges in many counties. Judge Dyke had no equal in his respect for the civility of the courtroom and in his ability to express compassion and empathy to those accused and convicted of crimes. It is very easy to discard persons who have violated the law; to treat them as inferior or with disdain. Judge Dyke never did. He always found something positive to say about a defendant, something hopeful. I always looked forward to his sage advice to my clients at sentencing. He always the caring father/grandfather; stern when it was required, but his deep well of good will always shone through. I had a traumatic experience many years ago, when working as a public defender, when an unstable client attacked me in the courthouse. I suffered some injuries that required an ambulance ride to Upland Hills Hospital and some stitches in my face. Judge Dyke came to the hospital to check in on me. That really touched me at the time, and will always. When I moved on to a private practice in Madison, I continued to take cases in Iowa County, and always was met with a warm welcome by Judge Dyke. It always felt like going home. Like so many, I will miss him terribly. My deepest condolences to his family.

David Saperstein - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

RU

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire family and friends. Like many, I grew up watching him on tv and later as mayor of Madison. Years later I was honored to be on a committee with Mr. Dyke at a republican state convention. We had many mutual friends. We thank him for his service to Wisconsin.

Rick Unbehaun - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

FS

“ Judge Bill Dyke was an amazing person indeed. The kind of person that took life by the horns and really did something. The list of endeavors he tackled is amazing. When I first appeared in his courtroom I was astonished by his humble character and great forethought in all the cases he handled. He always presented a very caring and understanding side to the immigrants and spanish speakers I work with as a Spanish language Court Interpreter. He always recognized them for their journey to America, having uprooted themselves to find better opportunity and hard work in America. He joked with me about my very Swedish name asking questions and surprising me by speaking a few words in Swedish. He proudly talked about his Swedish Grandparents who came to Racine or perhaps Kenosha and delivered milk by buggy. I could sense his true spirit and where he came from. It was amazing working with him and I will miss his presence when I return to the courtroom that where he always presided. He sent me another lovely card this past Christmas signing it "Miss you, Bill." Bill, we will miss you! Your inspiration in all of us will last a long long time. My deepest condolences to the family. Fred Svensson

Fred Svensson - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

DJ

“ William "Bill" Dyke was a very good friend and mentor. When I went on the Bench in August, I set a an example his kind and warm demeanor on the bench. The manner in which he conducted himself as Judge was an example I wished to emulate. While I practiced law, every time I appear in front of Judge Dyke he made you feel like you were meeting with an old friend, and he was. I met him a few years after his stint as mayor. As a child I watched the afternoon TV show on Channel 3. But my best memories were when we were both practicing law, and the countless mediations he would do. I feel privileged to have known him for nearly 40 years. My sympathies to the whole family.

Duane Jorgenson - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

SW

“ The world and the entire Iowa Co. community has truly lost an honored Jurist and great man. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Dyke family and I am so sorry for your loss. I first met William Dyke some 45 years ago. I remember being in third grade when my father, Roth Watson took me to meet the Mayor of Madison. As a kid, I was so excited for the opportunity to meet such an important person. At that time, my father was active in Madison politics and the Madison police union and also a good friend of Mayor Dyke. That friendship lasted for many decades. When my dad and I arrived at the Mayor's office I remember being very nervous, but that didn't last long. We found the Mayor sitting behind a large wooden desk and once he saw us, he got up and walked over to me and introduced himself. He was a tall man of great stature. He smiled and put his large hand out to shake mine. I was struck by firm handshake. Mayor Dyke invited us into his office and told me to sit in his chair behind the desk. He made some comment as to how good I looked sitting there and that someday, I could be the Mayor of Madison. During our stay, the Mayor spent time casually chatting with me as he respectfully ignored my dad who was standing nearby. The Mayor carefully looked around his office and picked up a piggy-bank and I mean a bank in the shape of a big pig. The entire bank was painted with an American flag. Sticking out of the top of the piggy-bank, were several sticks of a food, or candy that were individually wrapped in foil. I believe that they were called Space Sticks and Mayor Dyke told me that the astronauts eat them when they are up in space. From that day forward, this man was my hero. A kind and generous man that welcomed this small child into his office and truly took an interest in me. It was all about me. There are few things that I remember from when I was that young, but I do remember everything about that special day when my dad took me to meet Mayor Dyke.

Steven Watson - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

NH

“ I worked in the Courthouse for several years. Judge Dyke always greeted me when he saw me, and he once made a special trip down to my office to compliment me on a letter to the editor I had written. I still have the Christmas cards he gave to us. He was a thoughtful man.

Nancy Howard - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

DC

“ Bil Dyke served Madison in a turbulent time. Even more impressive was what he accomplished after he left office. A well-regarded jurist, he showed compassion for those who came before his court. He raised horses and painted and even produced a movie. Mayor Dyke was an example of someone who belongs in public life because he had such a rich personal life.

David Cieslewicz - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM

CD

“ His ability to know exactly what to say or do at any given moment, his powerful mind matched by his generous heart. His sense of humor untopable! His curiosity unstoppable! Those eyes! They look right into your soul...I know he's watching over me still. My angel my best friend my husband and lifelong dance partner, my Bill

Christine Dyke - April 28, 2018 at 01:40 AM