



Mr. Robert "Judge" Dobbins Lewis

April 19, 1929 - January 4, 2018

Robert Dobbins Lewis

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The Honorable Robert Dobbins Lewis died at the North Carolina State Veterans Home on January 4, 2018. An Asheville native, Bob dedicated the majority of his life to public service for the State of North Carolina as a Resident Superior Court Judge for the 28th Judicial District, Buncombe County, serving 21 years on the bench prior to retirement, and 17 of those years as Senior Resident.

Bob graduated from Asheville's Lee Edwards High School, and obtained a Bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1951. He then served 2 years as an officer in the United States Navy, after which he obtained a law degree from the University Of North Carolina School Of Law in 1956. Bob then returned to Asheville and entered private practice until becoming Solicitor for Buncombe County from 1967-1970, and District Attorney for Buncombe County from 1971-1974. Thereafter, he rode North Carolina's western 4th Division circuit as Superior Court Judge, regularly presiding over cases from Murphy to Boone to Charlotte, as well as taking assignments across the Old North State.

His many accomplishments include serving as President of the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges, member of the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, delegate for North Carolina to the American Bar

Association, member of the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission, and Vice President of the North Carolina Bar Association.

In 2012, the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, Sarah Parker, presented him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on behalf of the Governor, recognizing Judge Lewis for having a proven record of extraordinary service to the State of North Carolina.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Walter Duncan Lewis, Sr. and Corinne "Jane" Dobbins Lewis, as well as many aunts and uncles. He is survived by: his devoted wife Kay Plemmons Lewis; sons Robert Gregory Lewis (Julie) and Mark Alexander Lewis (Libby); grandchildren Meredith Irene Lewis, Eliza Craig Lewis, and Ethan Gregory Lewis; brother, Walter Duncan Lewis, Jr.; as well as extended family.

The family is being assisted by Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Ave., and a memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Asheville at 2 p.m., Saturday, January 13, 2018. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Pisgah Legal Services and Eliada Home for Children.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Robert "Judge" Dobbins Lewis*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I greatly enjoyed working with Judge Lewis over many years. He was a valued mentor and friend. Words cannot adequately convey my sorrow for his passing.*

Terry English

Terry English - January 13, 2018 at 01:32 PM



“ *So sad to learn of Judge Lewis' passing. He was a great friend to my mother (Bette Morgan) in the 60's and 70's when she worked for Judge Riddle. Quite a distinguished career and I know he will be sorely missed. My prayers for your family.*

Jeanie Christenbury

Jeanie - January 10, 2018 at 08:51 AM

JH

“ A fine Judge as well as a fine man. The first Superior Court Judge I appeared before. As a newly sworn attorney in Asheville in 1990, one of my first motions hearing I had was before him, in the middle of a blinding snow storm and I was unknowingly way overprepared. Afterwards Judge Lewis looked at my opposing counsel, picked up a statute book and said to them "Mr. _____, the next time you come before me, this is a law book. I suggest you pick one up as Mr. Herrin has done." A fine man, a fine steward of the law and a fine role model in every respect. Joseph Herrin, Special Deputy Attorney General, Raleigh, NC

Joseph Herrin - January 09, 2018 at 02:28 PM

JH

“ Please accept our deepest sympathies at the passing away of Judge Lewis, who was on the bench in 1975, when I was sworn in as an attorney. My wife, Margaret, is an attorney, and we both held Judge Lewis in highest esteem.
Judge Jeff Hunt, and wife Maggie Hunt

Jeff Hunt - January 08, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DE


“ It was my great honor to have known, and sometimes worked with, Judge Lewis. His ,service on the bench will long be remembered, and his influence on other judiciary members to be professional, fair and smart, will be felt for generations to come. His devotion to family and friends was always ever present. I pray for comfort for his family and friends, and God Speed to you Judge. ~Dornetta Elkins (a/k/a DorSeita..which is the nickname he gave me, and forever used)

Dornetta Elkins - January 08, 2018 at 09:49 AM

BA

“ *Kay and family,
Peg and I are truly saddened to read of Bobby' s death, I well recall
all the fun times at the old Asheville CC when Bobby was one of the
best golfers in the "big gang" and he treated me , a newcomer to
Asheville and serious golfers, with such kindness and compassion,
Our love and prayers go out to you and your family as you cope with
your loss.*

bob adams - January 07, 2018 at 06:49 PM

 Cindy
Crawford

“ *Judge Lewis was one of a kind and I am grateful to have known
him. My condolences to the family*

Cindy Crawford - January 06, 2018 at 12:27 PM

 Tina
Lunsford

“ *Tina Lunsford lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Robert "Judge" Dobbins Lewis*



Tina Lunsford - January 06, 2018 at 10:45 AM

 Tina
Lunsford

“ *I was honored to care for Judge Lewis at the Veteran's Home, and
will miss his wonderful sense of humor. My deepest condolences to
the family.*

Tina Lunsford - January 06, 2018 at 10:45 AM

CL

“ *It was an honor and privilege to care for Judge Lewis...I miss him terribly...*

Christine Linke - January 06, 2018 at 08:24 AM

CL

“ *Christine Linke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert "Judge" Dobbins Lewis*



Christine Linke - January 06, 2018 at 08:23 AM

JT

“ *Justina Tate lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert "Judge" Dobbins Lewis*



Justina Tate - January 05, 2018 at 02:06 PM

WC

“ *Judge Lewis was always listened carefully to us lawyers and you could count on a fair and firm decision. We will miss him'*
Walter L. Currie

Walter Currie - January 05, 2018 at 01:49 PM