



Judge Roger A. Benson

September 17, 1932 - February 10, 2017

Judge Roger A. Benson, age 84, of Bourbonnais, died Friday, February 10, 2017 at his home.

He was born September 17, 1932 in Joliet, the son of Edwin A. & Florence Warning Benson.

Roger married Nancy Kavaney on May 23, 1986 in Kankakee. He was a retired associate circuit court judge and was also a private practice attorney. He was a 1950 graduate of Rockford High School. Roger earned a BBA from Northwestern University in 1954 and a JD from DePaul University in 1958. In October of 1958, he was admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois. From 1954-1968, he served as vice president of Security Lumber and Supply Co., Inc. in Bradley. From 1959-1968, he practiced law in Kankakee. From 1968 until 1992, he was appointed and served as Associate Circuit Court Judge of Kankakee County.

From 1992 to present day, he continued the general practice of law.

Roger was an Adjunct Professor at Olivet Nazarene University.

He was a member of the Kankakee County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Judges Association, American Judges Association, and the Delta Theta Pi Law Fraternity. He was also a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, serving as Senior Counsellor- Class of 2008 (50 years of legal service).

Roger was a recipient of Judge Duane O'Connor Leadership Award in December of 2008.

In 2016, he was the recipient of the Illinois Bar Association John C. McAndrew's Pro Bono Service Award.

He was active with a number of charitable organizations, including serving as President of the Easter Seals Society of Kankakee County, serving as a board member of the Kankakee County Victim's Assistance Center, and was Volunteer Attorney of the Year through Prairie State Legal Services in 2003. He also served on the board of Directors with the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley. Roger was a member of the Professional Council of the Shepherd's Endowment Society for the Good Shepherd Manor.

Roger was a very active member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks; serving in all local and national offices, including State President from 1995-1996 and Chief Justice of Grand Forum from 1997-1998.

He was also a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Kankakee Lodge No. 802 and Kankakee Masonic Lodge No. 389.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Benson of Bourbonnais; one son and daughter-in-law, David & Rosella Benson of Bourbonnais; two daughters and one son-in-law, Eydie & Scott Beaver of Rockton and Lisa Toulon & Mark Garcia of Chicago; one step-son, Richard Milton of Bradley; two step-daughters, Barbara Milton of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Linda & Michael Johnson of Gilman; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Ronald Benson of Bradley and Russell & Sandra Benson of Kankakee; twelve grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one son, Edwin A. Benson II.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais, where funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, February 17, 2017.

Deacon Patrick Skelly will officiate the service.

Entombment will follow at All Saints Mausoleum in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation or Kankakee Community College Paralegal Program.

Roger enjoyed his charity work with the Elks, traveling, and reading. He was

dearly loved by his family and will be sadly missed by his family and his many, many friends.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Mike and I offer our sincere condolences and regrets that we could not be with you during this sad time, but take comfort knowing that Roger will be warmly welcomed by so many of our beloved Benson family members. May he rest in peace.

Love,
Mike and Deborah (Benson) Winans

Deborah Benson-Winans - February 17, 2017 at 05:07 PM

MM

“ Mary Ellen McBride Mathis lit a candle in memory of Judge Roger A. Benson



Mary Ellen McBride Mathis - February 17, 2017 at 12:49 PM

MM

Sorry to hear of Roger's passing. I grew up across the street from his family. Eydie and I were the same age, but knew all of his children.

Mary Ellen McBride Mathis - February 17, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Judge Roger Benson's passing. Roger always ran his courtroom in a fair and conscientious manner, and was a credit to the Bench. He was never too busy to share a greeting - and then a story - in the courthouse rotunda. See you on the other side, Your Honor!!

*Ron Riml, Kankakee City Police, Ret
East Boothbay, ME*

Ron Riml - February 16, 2017 at 03:28 PM



“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to the family of Roger Benson, he was an amazing judge and was also my attorney for a few years..he became not only my acting attorney but also a great friend...RIP Roger til we meet again..prayers for the family to receive comfort in God's loving hands



Glory Nusbaum - February 16, 2017 at 12:41 PM



“ 92 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - February 16, 2017 at 08:11 AM

JB

“ Dear Family of Judge Roger Benson,
Our dearest sympathy in your loss. Having lived a block away from the Roger Benson family growing up & the other connections our two families have had over many years we indeed feel your pain. We will be sending a donation to the Elks Children's Care in memory of Roger.
The Leo Ludwig family: Monie, Jennifer, Joan & Brian

jennifer brown - February 15, 2017 at 09:45 PM

BK

“ Betty Kavaney lit a candle in memory of Judge Roger A. Benson



Betty Kavaney - February 15, 2017 at 06:00 PM

BK

Our family was truly blessed to have Roger as our brother in law. Nancy, you will always have our love and support, Dan, Betty Kavaney and family

Betty Kavaney - February 15, 2017 at 06:04 PM

NA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Nancy, and the rest of the family, during this difficult time. May the happy memories you have fill the emptiness you are now feeling. Roger was a good and kind man.

Nick/Shirley Africano - February 15, 2017 at 03:21 PM

CM

“ Nancy and family: So sorry to hear of the Judge's passing. He was always kind and considerate to me. Prayers for all of you. He will surely be missed.

Cathie Sederstrand-Bergan-Miedema

Cathie Miedema - February 15, 2017 at 03:00 PM



VD

“ Dear Nancy I'm so sorry to hear about Roger. A great man. He will be missed. My love prayers and thoughts are with you and all Roger's family.

Virginia R Dominick - February 15, 2017 at 08:47 AM



KS

“ I knew Roger for many years even as a judge. He was a fair one for sure. Also was a customer of mine at Morris Automotive Inc.

Kenneth Mausehund Sr. - February 14, 2017 at 06:24 PM



DF

“ Donna Fox-Price lit a candle in memory of Judge Roger A. Benson

Donna Fox-Price - February 14, 2017 at 02:18 PM



DF

“ *My heart breaks to hear of Mr Benson's passing. I had the honor of being married by Mr Benson exactly 45yrs after he married my parents (who are now passed as well) He said he was so honored to have me ask him and couldn't believe I knew he married my parents so many years ago! He was a very kind man. May God bless his family. My prayers are with you all. Donna Fox-Price*

Donna Fox-Price - February 14, 2017 at 02:18 PM

JL

“ *Rest in peace, Roger*

former secretary Judy Patnaude Leake

Judy Patnaude Leake - February 14, 2017 at 11:12 AM