



Judge Peter Lawrence Statler

July 27, 1942 - December 10, 2016

Judge Peter Lawrence Statler, a sixth-generation Missourian, was born in Jackson to Judge William Osler Statler and Erma Statler. Pete was a Boy Scout, and during the summers, he worked as a lifeguard at the Jackson city swimming pool. He graduated in 1960 from Jackson High School, where he lettered in football, played the saxophone and was elected student-body president.

Pete pursued an accelerated course of undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia, leading to law school, where he obtained a Juris Doctor in 1966.

Upon graduating, he enlisted in the United States Navy, attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and was stationed on the USS Coral Sea, fulfilling combat missions during the Vietnam War from 1966 until 1969. He was honorably discharged as a lieutenant junior grade. In 1969, Pete returned to Jackson, where he practiced law with Paul A. Mueller Jr., forming Mueller and Statler Attorneys at Law.

While still a law student, Pete met Judy Hellwig of Chesterfield, Missouri, whom he married in 1967. The couple was blessed with three sons, Matthew, Travis and Daniel. The family attended St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jackson, where Pete served as a member of the Board of Elders.

In 1989, Pete was appointed to serve as municipal judge of the city of Jackson. In 1994, he was elected associate circuit judge of the 32nd Judicial Circuit of Missouri, Division IV, and in this capacity, he presided over a wide variety of civil and criminal cases.

He was also the founding judge of the drug courts in the 32nd Circuit, initiating a program that has grown to include juvenile and family drug courts and adult criminal drug courts in Jackson and in Perryville, Missouri. Pete ran unopposed in three subsequent elections and served four terms as associate circuit judge.

Following retirement from the state bench in 2010, Pete returned to private law practice with his sons, Daniel Statler and Travis Statler, at the Statler Law Firm L.C. in Cape Girardeau. He also resumed his service to the city of Jackson as its municipal judge, a position he held until his death. 2016 marked 80 continuous years of Statler family lawyers graduating from The University of Missouri School of Law and practicing law in Cape Girardeau County, a tradition that began with Pete's father in 1936 and continues to the present with his sons.

Pete was recognized as a licensed attorney in the state of Missouri for 50 years. He received the Warren Welliver Award from the Missouri Lawyers Assistance Program in 2001 and 2007, recognizing his compassion and concern for impaired lawyers. He received the Respect for Law Award from Cape Girardeau Evening Optimist Club in 2005 and again in 2010. He received a certificate of appreciation from the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) project of Cape Girardeau County, recognizing his compassion and concern for abused children, in 2010. The Missouri Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives both passed special resolutions in 2010 recognizing his accomplishments.

Pete was a Rotarian with the Jackson Rotary Club. He loved sports and held season tickets to the St. Louis Cardinals baseball and football teams. He loved vacationing with his family in St. George Island, Florida. Above all, he loved sitting around "swappin' lies and swattin' flies" with family and friends.

He passed away Dec. 10, 2016, in his home, surrounded by his loving family. Survivors include wife Judy; brother William (Carolyn); sons Matthew (Roxanna), Travis (Tania) and Daniel (Katie); and grandchildren Roya, Cyrus, Preston, Cosette and William.

Visitation will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home, 1001 North Mount Auburn Road in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home, followed by burial in Cape County Memorial Park.

Memorial gifts may be made by check payable to the Cape Girardeau County Drug Court Participant Fund and mailed to Drug Court Administrator, 100 Court Street, Suite 103, Jackson, MO 63755.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Service

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Kelly-Ann B. Radetic lit a candle in memory of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler*



Kelly-Ann B. Radetic - December 22, 2016 at 11:21 AM

KR

Ed, Kelly-Ann, Cecilia, Alex, Eddie, Sophie and Sam send their condolences and prayers to Judge Statler's family. May he rest in peace and watch over you always. The Radetics

Kelly-Ann B. Radetic - December 22, 2016 at 11:23 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



December 21, 2016 at 04:34 PM

GO

“ *George and Gayleen Ousley purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



George and Gayleen Ousley - December 20, 2016 at 05:49 PM

TT

“ *Ted Thompson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



Ted Thompson - December 19, 2016 at 04:10 PM

SP

“ *To Judy and the Statler family: we are sorry to learn of Pete's passing, and send our condolences to you. We fondly remember being next door neighbors with you at Whispering Heights; we've appreciated your friendship through the years; and admired & respected Pete's service as a lawyer & judge. We will be out of town over the holidays, but will keep you all in our thoughts & prayers, asking our great God to comfort you all at this time. With love from the Popp family - Barbara, Steve, David & Betsy*

Steve Popp - December 19, 2016 at 09:40 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



December 18, 2016 at 08:47 PM

DS

“Dad, this maybe farewell, but it is not goodbye. Until we meet again. Love, Daniel, Katie & William Statler.



daniel statler - December 18, 2016 at 07:52 PM

GE

“Gary and Elissa purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.



Gary and Elissa - December 18, 2016 at 12:30 PM

GH

“I will miss you Pete, my favorite Outlaw! Way too little time for us sharing your life with you. But, God did grant us some great times with you that will stay dear and close in our hearts! Elissa and Gary



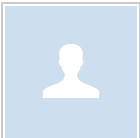
Gary & Elissa Hellwig - December 18, 2016 at 11:44 AM



“ *Judy and boys. There are no words to describe the shock and feeling of loss for one of the greatest friends I've ever known. We just lost Roger Scott too. I get the feeling that God's planning on starting a gourmet club with Pete and Scottie and Eunice and Dean and maybe more that I'm not even aware of. I'll never forget Pete's beautiful smile and his warm and generous laughter. I know that he is in heaven now, sharing that smile and laughter with all the other Angels.*

Ron Gray

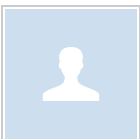
Ron Gray - December 16, 2016 at 02:50 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



December 15, 2016 at 08:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judge Peter Lawrence Statler.*



December 15, 2016 at 10:22 AM

SO

“ *Judy and family,*

I am so sad to hear the passing of my friend, Pete. What a great man. I always have had great respect for him. Please know that I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Susie Pickett O'Connell - December 14, 2016 at 08:04 PM

CE

To Judy and sons,

We had the privilege to know Pete as a judge and friend. In both roles, he was kind and helpful. He made us feel as if we were the most important people in the world. His words and ready smile will be sorely missed. We are praying for you to get through this difficult time. May God bless you and help you find peace. Dan and Cheryl Essner

Cheryl and Dan Essner - December 22, 2016 at 02:10 PM