Honoring those we lost . . .

In Memoriam

October 9, 2015
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Boyd L. Alexander
Timothy J. Binder
Cliffton E. Bloom
Clark W. Carnaby, Jr.
   Eber O. Cooper
Richard L. DeForge
John M. Dimari
Michael J. Donahue
General Edwin F. Dosek
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Timothy Sherwood Dunning
Richard M. Duxbury
     Renne Edmunds
The Honorable Glen A. Fiebig
     Judith V. Ford
James R. Ganz, Sr.
Martha W. Hopkins
   Anthony Ike
Harold W. Kay
Michael L. Lazer
   Daniel A. Martin
The Honorable Bernard J. McGinn
Dr. Lisa Grace Swinton McLaughlin
Raymond P. Medlin, Jr.
   Harold I. Mosher
The Honorable John P. Murphy
Anthony C. Nanfito
Duane L. Nelson
   The Honorable Michael L. Offner
   Robert E. Peterson
   Stephen M. Sawtell
Jane Schoenike Takemoto
   Edward C. Sweigard, Jr.
   John L. Swyers
Wayne James Thompson, Jr.
   Donald F. Uerling
   Joseph J. Vance
John William Wilke
   Audie J. Wise
Hon. J. DeWayne Wolf
William M. Wroblewski
**Boyd L. Alexander**  
**December 30, 1947 – November 24, 2014**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska**

Boyd Lynn Alexander, J.D., of Lincoln, died November 24, 2014. Lynn was born December 30, 1947, in Julesburg, CO, to Boyd M. and Janice (Hendrickson) Alexander. Valedictorian of his Ansley High School class, he came to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln as a regents scholar. He joined the Ag Men (now Alpha Gamma Nu) fraternity and later served as chapter advisor. Lynn was a member of the Cornhusker Marching Band and spearheaded their successful performance tour across Europe. He was inducted into the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music honorary. Lynn earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law and opened a private law practice. Lynn served for 38 years in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of colonel. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and won numerous awards for his service. Lynn was an active member of the Reserve Officer Association and the employer support for the Guard and Reserve. Lynn joined the Masonic Fraternity and served as master of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and the work done under his leadership won the Rock Maul Award. He was a founding member and musician of Tabula Rasa No. 332. Lynn was the grand musician for the Grand York Rite of Nebraska. In 1976 he married Susan Powers. Together they had a beloved daughter, Jessica, who brought them both pride and joy.

Lynn is survived by wife, Dr. Susan Powers-Alexander; daughter Jessica Alexander Cochnar and husband Michael, of Los Angeles; sisters Linda Alexander (Dr. Amy Prestas) and Carol (Burton) Willis; and mother-in-law Ann Powers. He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law, Ronald Powers.

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**Timothy J. Binder**  
**December 21, 1956 – December 5, 2014**  
**Vancouver, Washington**

Timothy J. Binder, 57, passed away December 5, 2014, in Vancouver, WA. He was born December 21, 1956, and grew up in Table Rock, NE. Tim graduated from Nebraska Christian High School, the University of Nebraska with a degree in agronomy, and continued at the University of Nebraska College of Law, graduating with a JD degree. Following law school, he clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge David L. Peister in Lincoln, NE. Tim moved to Washington, DC, to work for the US Department of Agriculture in the Office of Counsel. He later transferred to the Department of Agriculture as Counsel for Pacific Northwest in Portland, OR. While working in Portland, Tim also graduated from Western Seminary with a MDiv and pastored a church. His last job saw him working for the Department of Transportation as the Division Counsel Attorney for the Western Federal Lands Highway Division in Vancouver, WA. He earned several awards, among which were Western Human Resources Committee 2008 Employee of the Year and the Top Attorney of 2013 in the Federal Chief Counsel Office.

Tim is survived by his mother, Wilma Binder, Lincoln, NE; sisters Marjorie (Gene) Mendicki of Oklahoma City, OK; Barbara (Paul) Schaefer of Lincoln, NE; Joy (Dale) Hall of Brandon, FL; Mary (Rafael) Restrepo of Torrevieja, Spain; and Sharon (John) Balentine of Pensacola, FL; brothers Philip (Gwen) Binder of Ft. Smith, AR; Mark (Karen) Binder of Muren, Mongolia and Lincoln, NE; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends that he considered family. Tim is preceded in death by his father, Leland Binder, and one infant sister, Louise Binder.
Cliffton E. Bloom  
July 17, 1922 – October 28, 2014  
Tucson, Arizona

Cliffton E. Bloom, a practicing attorney for over 50 years and a partner in the firm of Lohse and Bloom, died on October 28, 2014. He was born in Chicago, IL, on July 17, 1922, the son of Cliffton and Josephine (Jacome) Bloom. Bloom received his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) and a law degree (cum laude) at the University of Notre Dame. A veteran of World War II, he served in the European Theatre. Scheduled to go to the Pacific Theatre, the war ended and he returned to his home in Nebraska. In 1950, he married Margaret Gensmann. The couple had three daughters: Christine (Moore), Irvine, CA; and Catherine and Mary of Tucson, AZ. As the son of one of Tucson’s pioneer families (his mother was Josephine Jacome, daughter of Carlos Jacome), he took great interest in the city’s history and phenomenal growth, much of which he observed on his many visits as a youth and later as a resident.

Survivors include his three daughters; four grandchildren, Louis Moore, Mary Moore Hill, Michael Moore and Peter Moore; two great-grandchildren, Cameron and Catherine Hill; sisters Sally Bloom and Jan (Bloom) Harkins, and numerous other relatives. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret and a brother, Philip.

Clark W. Carnaby, Jr.  
December 9, 1923 – October 20, 2014  
Palm Harbor, Florida

Clark W. Carnaby, Jr., born in Omaha, NE, on December 9, 1923, and passed away on October 20, 2014, in Palm Harbor, FL. Clark graduated from North High School in Omaha and attended Harvard University prior to serving as an officer in the US Navy during World War II aboard the USS Langley CVL 27. After the war, he obtained his Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. He was initially a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and was a member emeritus of the State Bar of Michigan. His career began as an assistant trust officer with the Omaha National Bank and it spanned a period of 32 years as a Bank Trust Officer in Rapid City, SD, and Royal Oak and Detroit, MI. In retirement he continued to provide pro bono legal services and divided his time seasonally between Tarpon Springs, FL, and Caseville, MI. In addition to family, Clark enjoyed a lifelong passion for sports in general and golf in particular. He held memberships at five golf clubs and played three times a week well into his 80s. He scored his 4th and final hole-in-one at his home course (Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs, FL) while in therapy after open heart surgery. In Omaha, he was a charter member of Sunset Valley Golf Course. In Royal Oak, he enjoyed his membership at Red Run Golf Club. In Caseville, he played with friends at Hidden Harbor Golf Course. He was Master of George W. Lininger Lodge in Omaha, NE, in 1955. He served as a Knight Commander and Master of Kadosh in the Scottish Rite and rode in the Najack patrol in the Shrine’s Club. He was a charter member of the YMCA in Rapid City, SD, and Royal Oak, MI, and a member of the Heritage Club in Detroit.

He is survived by his wife of over 62 years, Nancy (Neef); four children: Henry (Cathleen) Carnaby, Catherine (Jim) Jackson, Candy (Scott) Rieck and Clark (Laurie) Carnaby. He also had eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.
Eber O. Cooper
April 21, 1941 – October 2, 2014
Schuyler, Nebraska

Eber O. Cooper, 73, of Schuyler, passed away October 2, 2014, in Omaha. Eber was born April 21, 1941, in Scottsbluff, to Otho and Merlin (Severin) Cooper. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1958 and from the University of Nebraska College of Law at Lincoln in May 1966. Eber married Karen P. Alberts in October 1970. On July 28, 1989, he married Donna K. Kannas at First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Eber was a claims adjuster for several insurance companies, retiring from Continental Western Insurance when he was 63. He was also a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association, Nebraska Archeological Society, Henry Doorly Zoo, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Shriners and served as a sergeant in the National Guard. He was a classical guitarist and enjoyed having coffee with his coffee group, fishing, working on cars, home remodeling projects, and most of all, loved spending time with his family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eber is survived by his daughters, Susan (Joe) Heavican of Rogers and Leesa (Tim) Richtig of Crete; sons, Dan Cooper (fiancé Trinh Le) of San Diego, CA, and John Cooper of Columbus; stepchildren, Rodney Kannas of Clear Lake, SD; Brent Kannas of Fort Carson, CO; Kent Kannas of Watertown, SD; Debby (Max) Stewart of Zumbro Falls, MN; Judy Walford of Watertown, SD; and Sally (Scott) Jerabek of Belle Plaine, MN; eight grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; one step-great-grandson; sisters, Beth (Robert) Hanson of North Platte and Majel (Darrell) Avers of Enfield, IL; and brother, Muir (Sheryl) Cooper of Lincoln. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna; parents; and a brother, Norlin Cooper.

Richard L. DeForge
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Richard L. DeForge, 66, of Scottsbluff, died July 25, 2015, in Gering. Dick was born on December 8, 1948, in North Platte, to Llewellyn and Frances DeForge. He attended St. Agnes Elementary School in Scottsbluff and graduated from Gering High School. He then attended WNCC and went on to complete his education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln (UNL), earning a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska School of Law. It was at UNL where he met his wife, Donna. They were happily married for over 41 years. Together they have two sons, Michael and Mark. Dick recently retired from the Scottsbluff County Public Defender’s office, where he had worked for the past 15 years. Before that, he was an attorney for Western Nebraska Legal Aid. He had a passion for defending the underprivileged and believed strongly in ensuring the justice system worked for everyone. Prior to practicing law, he worked 16 years for Burlington Northern Railroad in Alliance. Dick was a pillar of strength, but above all else he was a gentleman. He had a warm heart and a passion for justice and defending those in need. He was loved by many and he will be truly missed.

Survivors include his mother, Frances; wife, Donna; their two sons, Mike (Kristie) of Cheyenne, WY, and Mark (Andrea) of Lincoln; and sister-in-laws Jean (Duane) Catlett of Montana and Diane (Bill) Oltman of Washington. He was preceded in death by two infant siblings and his father Llewellyn.
John M. DiMari  
June 6, 1942 – December 11, 2014  
Omaha, Nebraska

John M. DiMari, 72, passed away December 11, 2014. He still practiced law at Tiedeman, Lynch, Kampfe, McVay & Respeliers when he died. Prior to joining that firm, DiMari spent nearly his entire legal career practicing with the same law partner, John Respeliers, until Respeliers retired. Respeliers met his future law partner when DiMari was a bailiff in Judge John Murphy’s courtroom and persuaded him to join his practice in the early 1970s. He enjoyed traveling, taking cruises in the Caribbean and in Europe, and even visiting Egypt. He was remembered as an amazing negotiator, very personable, and with wonderful people skills.

He is survived by son Anthony and spouse Kimberly; son Jeremy; grandchildren Italia and Carmine; brother Joseph and sister-in-law Joanne; longtime companion Lynne Holmquist; nieces and nephews, Joseph and wife Michelle, Anna, Nicholas and Isabella. Preceded in death by father Joseph, mother Angeleen, and brothers Salvatore and Samuel.

Michael J. Donahue  
December 29, 1930 – December 7, 2014  
Pawnee City, Nebraska

Michael J. Donahue, 83, of Pawnee City, passed away December 7, 2014, at the Pawnee Manor in Pawnee City. He was born on December 29, 1930, in Pawnee City to Michael and Clara (Kamen) Donahue. Mike graduated from Pawnee City High School in 1948. He farmed with his father before attending and graduating summa cum laude from Creighton University with a Juris Doctor degree. Mike married Delores “Dee” Spomer on June 15, 1957, in Lincoln. After practicing law in Omaha, Mike and Dee moved to Pawnee City where Mike joined the Elmer F. Witte Law Firm. It later changed to Witte & Donahue Law Firm. Mike was the Pawnee County Attorney from 1964 to 1976. In 1973, Vic Faesser joined Mike in practicing law. The firm was changed in 1975 to Witte, Donahue, & Faesser PC and then eventually became Donahue & Faesser Law Firm. In 1991, his son, Michael J. Donahue III, joined the firm. Mike was a long time member and chairman of the Pawnee County Rotary Club, Pawnee City Cemetery Association, Pawnee City Development Corporation, active member of St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Steinauer, and the Nebraska State Bar Association, having received his 50 year pin. Mike enjoyed antique cars, hunting, practicing law, traveling overseas, helping his father on the farm and driving Star Mail routes during high school and college, playing trombone in a band in his younger years, and especially spending time with his granddaughters.

Mike is survived by his wife, Dee; two sons, Michael J. Donahue III of Lincoln and Patrick J. Donahue of Le Mars, IA; four granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; sister, Mary A. Callam and husband, Nate, of Beatrice; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Charles and Joseph Donahue; and a sister, Lillian Callam.
General Edwin F. Dosek  
October 9, 1920 – April 28, 2015  
Crofton, Maryland

Brigadier General Edwin F. Dosek, USAR, Ret., born October 9, 1920, passed away in Crofton on April 28, 2015. He was born in Ulysses, NE, the eldest of Edward and Philomena Dosek’s six children. Ed grew up in Lincoln, NE, earning his degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska in 1942. Following graduation, he served in the Army in Alaska as a code breaker before completing Officers Candidate School. He married Betty Rees Scott on October 27, 1945. Ed graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 1948. He remained active in the United States Army Reserve while he built his law practice, graduating from both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. In 1970, Ed took the position of senior counsel with the Federal Trade Commission in Maryland. After retirement, he joined the faculty at Anne Arundel Community College for several years, teaching a wide variety of business and law courses. He last served as Commander of the 97th Army Reserve Command in Fort Meade, MD. In Nebraska, he was president of Nebraska Heart Association for 14 years, and served as a Director on the American Heart Association Board of Directors; he was a Board member and Vice President of the national Junior Chamber of Commerce; he was elected a delegate to the 1960 and 1964 Democratic National Conventions; and he founded the youth football program in Lincoln, NE, in 1949. Ed loved the people and community of Crofton. He coached the Crofton Cavaliers and Crofton Cardinals youth football for nearly 15 years. Ed had an abiding love for the game of golf and was an official “rater” of golf courses across the United States and in foreign countries for Golf Digest and the United States Golf Association.

General Dosek is survived by his beloved Betty, his wife of 69 years; son Dr. J. Richard Dosek and his wife Debbie of Advance, NC; daughter Kathryn A. Moffat and her husband Duncan of Villa Park, CA; son E. Scott Dosek and his wife Judy of Paradise Valley, AZ; daughter Teresa R. Dimka and her husband Thomas of Crofton; sisters Jo Ann Scoville of Sioux City, IA, and Philomene Bennett Marak of Kansas City, MO; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Jerome and sisters Rita Marie Evans and Mary Alice Mickle.

Michael R. Drahota  
Omaha, Nebraska

Michael R. Drahota was born March 9, 1952, and passed away January 31, 2015, at the age of 62.

He is survived by son Michael J. Drahota; daughter Catherine Conard Drahota; mother Deloris Drahota; and siblings Dianne Barkley (Alan), Larry Drahota, Cathy Magee (Brian), and Kim Grady (David).
Timothy Sherwood Dunning
May 26, 1972 – January 12, 2015
Omaha, Nebraska
Timothy Sherwood Dunning passed away January 12, 2015. He was an in-house securities and finance attorney at Union Pacific Railroad for 13 years, after three years at Kutak Rock. He earned his law degree at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. While an undergraduate at Dartmouth, he was a stand-out rugby player, serving as president of the DRFC. He is remembered as a wonderful friend, tennis partner, life coach, ski buddy and welcome source of laughter. He enjoyed a wide range of activities, from golf and soccer to branding cattle, hunting pheasants and competing in triathlons. His friends describe him as having an incredible passion for knowledge.

He is survived and beloved by Nancy and John Webster; Holly Dunning; Mrs. Henry Clay; Jack, Dana and Brooke Webster; Christopher Webster; Lee and Anthony Shaw and family; Leila and Henry Clay and family; Merrilyn and Robert Belliveau and family; Melinda and Bill Burns and family; Deborah and Jeremy Dunning and family; Jennifer Dunning; and numerous dear friends. He was predeceased by his father John L. Dunning and grandparents Jacqueline and John Dunning, Henry Clay and Barbara and William Webster.

Richard M. Duxbury
July, 27, 1930 – November 25, 2014
Lincoln, Nebraska

Family includes wife, Marilyn, Lincoln; children, Amy Duxbury (Dawn Harms), Palo Alto, CA, John Duxbury, New York City, Matthew Duxbury (Nancy), Chicago; grandson, Fredrik, Chicago; step-son, Jon Shotkoski, Lincoln; step-grandson, Eli Shotkoski, Lincoln; nephew, David Lucas, Arlington, VA; niece, Barbara Muir, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Preceded in death by parents, and sister, Dorothea Lucas.

Renne Edmunds
June 16, 1931 – October 22, 2014
Omaha, Nebraska
Renne Edmunds, 83, passed away October 22, 2014. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Edmunds moved to Omaha when he was 11 years old and graduated from Creighton Prep. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Creighton University. He worked for a time at Fraser Stryker and another firm before his stint at the Douglas County Attorney’s Office, where he was in charge of civil cases. Renne practiced law in Omaha for over 50 years. As a volunteer, Edmunds was campaign manager for Omaha Mayor Gene Leahy, a Democrat. He also worked on the campaign of Gov. Norbert Tiemann, a Republican. Edmunds also played golf and enjoyed reading.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; two daughters, Emily Marie Edmunds and Tracey Julia Booher; and son-in-law, Jonathan Booher. He was preceded in death by parents, Mort and Beatrice Edmunds; and sister, Sheila Edmunds.
**The Honorable Glen A. Fiebig**  
**October 5, 1924 – October 4, 2014**  
**Alliance, Nebraska**

Glen A. Fiebig was born on a farm near Loup City, NE, on October 5, 1924. His parents were Albert and Bertha Fiebig. He graduated from Loup City High School in 1942. He taught in a one-room country school in Sherman County for one year. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Army. He was stationed at Camp Hood, TX, for basic infantry training. Subsequently, he was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program at Los Angeles City College. From there he entered Officers’ Candidate School at the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, VA. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieut. in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1945, and was assigned active duty in the South Pacific Theater. Glen served from New Guinea to Leyte and Manila in the Philippines and finally in Japan. He was discharged as a 1st Lieut. Glen graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1951. He joined the FBI as a Special Agent and served in New Haven, CT, and Chicago, IL, until 1954 when he joined Albert Reddish in the practice of law in the firm Reddish & Fiebig in Alliance. He was elected County Judge in the 16th Judicial District of Nebraska in 1972 and served as County Judge until his retirement in 1991. For several years after his retirement, he was employed as Associate Director of the National Rifle Association’s Planned Giving Foundation. Glen and Lila Lee Vanderwerth were married June 4, 1955, in Denver, CO, and lived in Alliance since that date. Glen and Lila had two children: Glen, Jr., and Lee Ann. Glen was a Life Benefactor member of the NRA; served as Vice-President of the Boy Scout Area Council of Sand Hills District, Wyo-Braska; and served as Chairman of the United Fund. He was also an American Legion life member and a trustee of Jay Cees. He had been president of the Alliance School Board and president of the Chamber of Commerce. He served as a trustee of the Presbyterian Church and had been president of Rotary. He was a member of the Chancellor’s Club of the University of Nebraska Foundation. He was a member of the Republican State Central Committee. For many years he was secretary-treasurer of the Alliance Rifle Club. The new shooting facility of the Alliance Rifle Club is named the Glen Fiebig Range.

**Judith V. Ford**  
**December 13, 1954 – September 22, 2014**  
**Bentonville, Arkansas**

Judith “Judy” Vera Ford, age 59, of Bentonville, AR, passed away September 22, 2014, in Bentonville. She was born December 13, 1954, in Bethesda, MD, to William Burlin Watkins and Vera Loreen Underwood Watkins. At age 5, Judy’s parents returned to their home state of Arkansas. She attended school in Little Rock, graduating from McClellan High School in 1972. Continuing her education, Judy received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway; a masters degree from Webster University in St. Louis, MO; and, in 1990, she graduated *cum laude* from the University of Detroit School of Law. She was a member of the Arkansas, Michigan and Nebraska State Bars. Judy retired from the position of Senior Vice President-Human Resources at AGProcessing, in Omaha, NE, in 2011, after 18 years of service. Prior to that she had worked in Human Resources for Vickers, Incorporated, in Searcy, AR, as well as at the Joplin, MO, and Tulsa, OK, facilities. She was Human Resource Manager for Comcast Cablevision in Flint and Pontiac, MI. After law school and prior to moving to Nebraska she was a practicing attorney. Judy had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed traveling. She visited every state in the U.S. and took numerous trips to Canada and Mexico, as well as Central America, the islands of the Caribbean, and to many countries in Europe. Judy is survived by her husband of 32 years, Howard (Jim) Ford; two sons, Jason Ford and wife, Tina, of Bradenton, FL, and Brant Ford of Springdale, AR; and one granddaughter, Jessica Lynn Ford. Judy loved puppies and dogs and is also survived by her “girls,” Sophia and Chloe, her two precious and totally spoiled Maltese. She was preceded in death by her parents.
James R. Ganz, Sr.
Kearney, Nebraska

James R. Ganz was born to Carl Donald and Flora Rose (Boyles) Ganz, in Alvo, NE, on February 10, 1924. He attended Alvo Consolidated Schools and graduated in 1940. He attended Hastings College for two years, and met his future wife, Doris, while there. He was commissioned as an Ensign in the USNR in 1944. He was a Stores Officer aboard the USS LST 568 from its commissioning in New Orleans, and participated in three invasions in the South Pacific: Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines, and Okinawa, survived two typhoons that necessitated the sinking of his ship off the Philippine Deep, and was placed on inactive duty on July 1, 1946. On June 15, 1946, he was united in marriage with Doris Ruth Jacobson and to this union six children were born. He went to the University of Nebraska under the GI bill, receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1947 and his Juris Doctor degree in 1949. He practiced law in Cozad and in 1956 moved to Gibbon to work at Exchange Bank in addition to his law practice. In 1961, he purchased the A.C. Wittera Abstract Co. and continued in the practice of law, abstracts of title, and title insurance until his retirement on June 15, 2004. In 1972, he served as President of the Nebraska Land Title Association, and in 1991, was elected Title Person of the Year by his peers in the Land Title Profession. Jim was warm and tender to friends and family, and was a world-class gentleman. He celebrated National Hug Day on a regular basis community-wide. From 1980 on, Jim sent out a weekly letter to his children, siblings and a host of good friends. The letters were anticipated and treasured and were always signed “Your Favorite Dad.”

He is survived by his children: James R. Ganz, Jr. (Kathleen) of Kearney, NE; William D. Ganz (Rebecca) of Tucson, AZ; Sara J. Kurlander of San Francisco; Kathryn J. (Norvell) Brasch of Denver, CO; Dale T. (Nancy) Ganz of Cleveland, OH; and Georgia K. (David) Lambert of St. Paul, MN; eleven grandchildren: Jeffrey Ganz (Hallie); Marcy Neeman (Mark); David Kurlander; Samuel Brasch; Jacob Brasch; Benjamin Brasch; Joseph Brasch; Daniel Lambert; Laura Jane Lambert; Julia Lambert and Elizabeth Lambert; and two great-grandchildren, Augusta Ganz and Vivienne Neeman. He was preceeded in death by his parents, his wife Doris, brothers Dale Ganz and Charles Ganz, sister Ruth Edwards, and son-in-law Daniel Kurlander.

Martha W. Hopkins
October 31, 1935 – November 12, 2014
Omaha, Nebraska

Martha W. Hopkins was a 1974 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and later, a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law in 1989.

Martha is survived by her husband of 57 years, Jerome; children, Michael J. (Randi) Hopkins, Catherine E. Hopkins (John Kohnke), Terrence J. (Emra) Hopkins, and Anne H. (Rex, Jr.) Twedt; nine grandchildren; three sisters; one brother; and numerous other family and friends. She was preceeded in death by her brother, James R. Ward.
Anthony N. Ike  
June 11, 1961 – April 8, 2015  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Anthony Ike, 53, was born June 11, 1961, and passed away on April 8, 2015, in Omaha. Anthony had a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he made the Dean’s List and was a member of Pi Gamma Mu. Anthony received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law. While in law school, he was a research assistant to Professor John Snowden, Assistant to the Office of Assistant Dean, President of the Multi-Cultural Law Students Society, and a member of an organizing group of minority recruitment.

He is survived by his children, Chika Ike and Tobechukwu Ike; sister Chinyere Ike; brother Ifeanyi Ike, and Chidi Ike, and a host of many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who love and miss him dearly. He was preceded in death by his parents Michael Onwu Ike and Martina Ona-ego Nurokeji and brother Maximus Okechukwu Ike.

Harold W. Kay  
February 12, 1927 – September 23, 2014  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Harold W. Kay, 87, died September 23, 2014, in Lincoln. He was born in McCook, NE, and graduated from McCook High School. He married Patricia Lou Larson on June 21, 1947. He was educated at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, (BS, 1949, JD, 1952), and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He was an Eagle Scout, in Troop 147, McCook. He was admitted to the Nebraska Bar in 1952 and practiced law in Omaha (1952-1953) and North Platte for 53 years (1954-2007). He moved to North Platte in 1954 to practice with the Maupin & Dent law firm. In 1981, he and his son established Kay & Kay, Attorneys at Law. His practice included representation of Nebraska school districts, insurance companies, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and many other corporations and individuals. Notable landmark cases include Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart and Cleo R. Herrera, Special Administrator of the Estate of Jo Ann Yellowbird, Decedent v. Clifford Valentine, et al. He was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers (1979); President (1999-2001), Lifetime board member, and Fellow of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation; President, Defense Counsel of Nebraska (1970); President, North Platte Chamber of Commerce (1968); President, North Platte Board of Education (1961); and President, Lincoln County Bar Association (1956).

He is survived by his son, Stephen (Jean) of North Platte, and daughters, Susan Jasnoch (Roger) of Kearney and Sara Kay Walbridge (James) of Lincoln; grandchildren, Melissa Miller (Patrick) of Oceanside, CA, Stephen Kay II of North Platte, Robert Kay of Los Angeles, CA, Scott Jasnoch of Kearney, and Matthew Wallace Ludwig of Lincoln; great-grandchild, Eleanor Miller; and granddogs, Bailey and Booker. Additional survivors are his sister, Carolyn Roberts of Highland Park, IL; brother-in-law, John Larson (Sharol) of Midlothian, VA; sister-in-law, Naomi Larson of Phoenix, AZ; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by wife, Patricia Lou; parents, Elmer and Audrey (Wallace); sister, Shirley A. Williams; infant son, Kevin Robert; and special family dog, Silky.
Michael L. Lazer  
June 27, 1938 – October 28, 2014  
Omaha, Nebraska

Michael L. Lazer passed away on October 28, 2014, at age 76. The native Omahan and Central Eagle earned both his bachelor’s degree and law degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the early 1960s. He continued his education to better serve his clients, completing mediation training in 2007. He began his career with criminal cases and divorces, a career that later evolved into commercial and real estate areas. In 1992 he received the State of Nebraska’s Governor’s Award for Philanthropic Planning. He spent the last 20 years of his legal career at Smith Gardner Slusky Law, before retiring in 2013. He was a member of the Omaha, Nebraska State and American Bar Associations.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Milder Lazer; daughters and sons-in-law Andrea and John Grafentin and Jessica Lazer and Richard Waldman; daughter Rachel Roberts; three grandchildren: Ben and Grant Grafentin and Thomas Lazer Waldman; and sister Judy Kaplan.

Daniel A. Martin  
December 1, 1937 – July 24, 2015  
Elkhorn, Nebraska

Daniel Arthur Martin, age 77, of Elkhorn, NE, formerly of Fremont, NE, passed away on July 24, 2015. Dan was born December 1, 1937, in Omaha, to Dr. James and Helen Martin and was the youngest of five boys. Dan attended Creighton Preparatory High School and Creighton University where he received his law degree in 1961. He began practicing law in Fremont in 1962. It was during this time that Dan was on active duty with the Army Reserve 82nd Unit Field Hospital. He was a partner of Kerrigan, Line, and Martin until 1990 when he opened a solo practice. Dan was a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association for over 50 years and was the senior practicing attorney in Dodge County. In 1977, he was nominated by his peers to the Nebraska State Bar Foundation Class of Fellows. On December 28, 1977, Dan married the love of his life, Rosemary Layne, in Fremont, NE. The two were inseparable and together they enjoyed life. They loved traveling and golf, but their most treasured moments were spent with family and friends. Dan took many fishing trips over the years and loved playing the banjo. He was a collector of fine things including watches and pens. Dan was an active member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Fremont where he served as a lector and held offices on the Parish Council. He was a member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and served as Faithful Navigator from 2010-2012. Daniel fought a brave battle against cancer. His kind heart never wavered and he was an inspiration to his family and friends until the end. His family will miss his unique sense of humor, quiet strength, and love.

Dan is survived by his loving wife, Rosemary; daughters Eva (Curtis) Wilson of Austin, TX; Susan Martin of San Francisco, CA; Saundra Mohnsen of Omaha, NE; grandchildren Carley, Lexie, and Emily Wilson of Austin, TX, and Maddisen Mohnsen of Omaha, NE; sisters-in-law Jane Martin of Omaha, NE, and Marty (Winfield) Weber of Fremont, NE; and many other nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Dan was preceded in death by his parents; son James Martin; and brothers James, Maurice, and Louis Martin.
The Honorable Bernard J. “Bernie” McGinn
December 22, 1938 – August 5, 2015
Lincoln, Nebraska

Judge Bernard J. “Bernie” McGinn, 76, Lincoln, died August 5, 2015. He was born in Jamaica, Queens, NY, on December 22, 1938, to Raymond Aloysius and Elizabeth Ann “Betty” (Kelly) McGinn. McGinn retired from the Lancaster County District Court in September 2005 after 25 years on the bench. He was a well-respected, popular judge with a reputation for fairness, honesty and patience. He was awarded the Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community Award in 2005. After he retired, McGinn served on the Nebraska Commission on Industrial Relations. Bernie was an avid athlete and an incredible listener who enjoyed annual excursions to fish, hunt, ride his motorcycle or just reminisce with friends and family members.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen; his children and grandchildren: daughter Terry McGinn and son-in-law Steve Thomas, Lincoln; daughter Mary McGinn and son-in-law John West, Lincoln; son Bernie and daughter-in-law Tammy Childers and granddaughter Stella, San Francisco; son Brendan and daughter-in-law Alison Hershey and grandson Miles, Lincoln; brother Kevin, Lincoln; and sister Betty Ann and brother-in-law Jim Gibbons, South Bend, IN; and nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Dr. Lisa Grace Swinton McLaughlin
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Dr. Lisa Grace Swinton McLaughlin was born in Kansas City, MO, on February 15, 1958. Her late father, Lee Vertis Swinton, was an attorney and a Missouri state senator and mother Grace was an educator. She held a bachelor of arts degree in US and modern European history, was a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society and won the Spirit of Creighton Award. She graduated from Creighton University School of Law and was a Nebraska special assistant attorney general for 13 years. She then graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and became medical director for the American Red Cross in Baltimore, MD, in 2006. She was promoted to senior medical officer in 2007 in the Washington, DC, office. In January 2011, she became executive medical officer and had that job until her death on January 4, 2015. Lisa had an affinity for her fellow humans, especially children. She handled child abuse and neglect cases in the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office. She said she became a doctor because she had a desire to help more people.

Survivors include husband Mike McLaughlin, sons Jordan and Dylan, stepsons Tom of Overland Park, KS, and Robert of Omaha, and mother-in-law Elizabeth Collins of Omaha.
Raymond P. Medlin, Jr.
September 6, 1928 – December 29, 2014
Albion, Nebraska
Raymond P. Medlin, Jr., 86, passed away on December 29, 2014. Ray was born to Raymond P. Medlin, Sr., and Thelma Wood Medlin on September 6, 1928, in Omaha, NE. He moved to Albion with his parents and brother in 1932. He attended Albion Public Schools, graduating with the Class of 1946. He attended Wayne State Teachers College for two years. He transferred to the University of South Dakota, where he received a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration in 1950 and his law degree in 1952. Ray entered the United States Army in August 1952. He served in Headquarters, 3rd Division, 7th Infantry S-I near the 38th parallel during the Korean War for 17 months. He was honorably discharged in June 1954. Ray returned to Albion and was associated with his father in the practice of law. He was the Boone County Attorney for 20 years and later was the City Attorney for Albion, Petersburg and St. Edward. The Nebraska State Bar Association honored Ray for fifty years of membership in 2002. He continued his law practice until his death. Ray was a member of the Albion Chamber of Commerce, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and had a life membership in the American Legion Post #162 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #736. He served on the Boy Scouts Leadership Committee and committees of the First United Methodist Church of Albion. Ray married Fern Wilkerson at the Congregational Church in Coleridge, NE, on November 18, 1956. They are the parents of three children. He enjoyed camping, hiking and canoeing with his family, hearing a good joke and Nebraska Football.

Surviving Ray is his wife, Fern, and their children: Dana and his wife, Lori, of Omaha; David and his wife, Lori, of Grand Island; and Nancy of Omaha; six Medlin grandchildren: Mallory, Jack, Jared, Mitchell, Kirsten and Alyssa; his sister, Barbara Perrenoud of Naples, FL; and three nieces and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, James B. Medlin.

Harold I. Mosher
August 27, 1925 – October 18, 2014
Lincoln, Nebraska
Harold I. Mosher, of Lincoln, born August 27, 1925, in Lincoln, passed away October 18, 2014. Harold graduated from Lincoln High, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska College of Law. He served the State of Nebraska, its officers and agencies for over 30 years, retiring as the Senior Assistant Attorney General in 1994. In addition to frequent trial work, he briefed and argued more than 700 cases before the Nebraska Supreme Court and numerous cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He also briefed and argued three cases in the U.S. Supreme Court including the landmark case Nebraska Press Assn. v. Stuart. Harold was instrumental in the legal work establishing the Nebraska Educational Television and Radio Network (NET) and in obtaining a negotiated settlement with the NBC television network that resolved NBC’s infringement of the NET logo on terms very favorable to NET. He was a longtime member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and the Executive Club of Lincoln. Harold had a great love of travel, the many animals they had throughout the years, Nebraska Football and his wonderful wife and life partner of 62 years, Beverly.
The Honorable John P. Murphy
July 26, 1947 – March 3, 2015
Omaha, Nebraska
Judge John P. Murphy left this earth in the early morning hours of March 3, 2015, at the young age of 67. Before then, he was a very busy man. “The Judge” was a proud Nebraskan who grew up in Omaha. He graduated from Creighton Prep and attended St. Louis University where he met his wife, Marie. Murphy earned his law degree from Creighton and headed west to pursue a career in North Platte. He honed his law skills before being appointed district court judge in 1983. He served as a judge, occasionally ruffling feathers with his outspoken demeanor and the fact that he was always right, until retiring in 2011. The Judge was a fan of the Bluejays, Huskers, North Platte St. Patrick’s High School basketball and golf, and (unfortunately) the New York Yankees. He was an avid runner, skier and a golfer who took mulligans liberally. Murphy abhorred injustice almost as much as he hated strong cheese. He sentenced countless criminals to jail but anonymously baked pumpkin pies for inmates at the Lincoln County Jail at Thanksgiving. He was a proud Democrat who managed to make a good friend and law partner out of Ron Ruff, a staunch Republican. Murphy considered St. Patrick’s Day to be the best holiday of the year and loved to sing along with the Irish Rovers despite the fact that his singing was unpleasant to those around him. Murphy changed the oil in his American-made cars on his own. He was enthralled by lighting fireworks and charred plenty of tee shirts in the process. He wasn’t big on fashion. Murphy loved his wife of 45 years and she was by his side through sickness, health and occasional cantankerous stubbornness. He was extremely proud of his sons Daniel, Timothy and Patrick. He taught all three how to throw a baseball, to appreciate the genius of J.D. Salinger and the Beatles, that everyone deserves to be treated fairly, and that you always hold the door for others—especially your mother. He was even more proud of his grandsons Paolo and Giacomo and spent many cherished days with them recently.

Murphy is survived by his wife, sons and grandsons and also by sisters Patricia, Kathleen and Margaret and brother Daniel. Friendly arguing with his siblings served as valuable practice for the courtroom. Murphy was preceded in death by billions of other people.

Anthony C. Nanfito
November 21, 1949 – December 15, 2014
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Anthony C. Nanfito was born in Omaha on November 21, 1949, and passed away December 15, 2014. Tony graduated from Creighton Prep and Creighton Law School. He devoted his life to looking out for the needs of others. Over the years, he practiced law both privately and for public agencies. His later years led to a call in ministry, and he served as a part-time chaplain at several area hospitals. His volunteer work at the Stephen Center was his final gift of service to others. Tony loved to sail and spend time on a lake, as it brought him a sense of peace and tranquility.

He is survived by his beloved wife and companion, Fran Maddox-Nanfito; sons Joshua Nanfito and Thad (Trisha) Nanfito; daughters Melissa (Brian) Boyce, Emily (Van) Simmons, Genevieve (Anselme) Nassa, and Aleece (Tim) Smith; 13 grandchildren; sisters Marianne (Don) Maxwell, Kathy (Brian) Conety, Eileen (Bruce) Sundberg, Meg (Steve) Jones, and Jackie Nanfito; and many nieces and nephews. Anthony was preceded in death by his parents, Ethelyn Major and Charles A. Nanfito.
Duane L. “Whitey” Nelson  
**October 19, 1930 – December 6, 2014**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska**

Duane L. “Whitey” Nelson, 84, of Lincoln, died December 6, 2014. Duane was born October 19, 1930, in Minden, to Roy and Bessie (Bloom) Nelson. He graduated from Axtell High School and Kearney State Teachers College. After college, Duane served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law. He worked for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC, before returning to Lincoln, where he worked as an assistant US attorney, director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, special prosecutor for the Wounded Knee reservation uprising, and in private practice.

He is survived by two sons, Andy (Heather), of Overland Park, KS, and Joel (Amy), of Lincoln; his ex-wife, Kathy, of Lincoln; two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Duane was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Fern Jelden.

The Honorable Michael L. Offner  
**November 18, 1952 – December 27, 2014**  
**Red Cloud, Nebraska**

Michael L. Offner, 62, of Red Cloud, died December 27, 2014. Mike was born November 18, 1952, in Hastings, to Phyllis and Stan Offner. He grew up in the Red Cloud community and attended Red Cloud schools. Mike excelled at sports and was selected his senior year to participate and play in the 1971 Shrine Bowl. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on a full academic and football scholarship. Following the completion of his undergraduate studies, Mike was accepted into the University of Nebraska College of Law and graduated in 2½ years. Mike married Janet Pospichal in 1975. Mike was a past president and treasurer of the Red Cloud Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cloud Golf Course and the Red Cloud Ball Association. A strong supporter and advocate of community youth activities, Mike announced for many years at the local high school football games and also coached youth baseball for many years. Mike served as a County Court Judge, 10th Judicial District, from 2001 until his death. He was in private practice from 1978 to 2001 in Red Cloud, was the Webster County attorney from 1983 to 2001, the legal services attorney for Midland Area Agency on Aging from 1981 to 2001 and was Blue Hill’s city attorney from 1988 to 2001. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1977 and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1975. He was a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association, 10th Judicial District Bar Association and the Nebraska County Judges Association. He served on various Nebraska Supreme Court Committees, including the Pro Se Committee and Forms Subcommittee; Dispute Resolution Advisory Council; Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative; Adoption Day Committee; Juvenile Court Review Panel; and JUSTICE Automation Advisory Committee for Juvenile Courts. He participated in the Fillmore, Clay and Webster County Government Day Mock Trial Competition and Bar Foundation Law Day Job Shadowing for fifth-graders in Nuckolls and Webster counties. He was the 2009 recipient of the Chief Justice’s Outstanding Judge for Service to the Judiciary Award.

Left to treasure his memory are his wife, Janet Offner of Red Cloud; son Adam Offner and wife Darah and children Faith, Levi and Rose; son Andrew Offner and wife Beth and children Devon, Skye, Caleb, JJ and Harper; his parents, Phyllis and Stan Offner of Red Cloud; a brother, Steve Offner and wife Susan; a sister, Shelley Clayburn and husband Neal; and sisters-in-law Lori Rock and husband Dean and Mary Pat Uacek and husband Don. Everyone who knew Mike knows how much he cherished his grandchildren and loved attending all of their activities and photographing all of their events. Also surviving are his nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and his colleagues and peers of the 10th District as well as a host of friends who had the pleasure to know him who will deeply miss Mike.
Robert E. Peterson  
April 17, 1932 – February 12, 2015  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Robert Ervin Peterson, 82, died February 12, 2015. Bob was born in Lincoln, NE, on April 17, 1932, and was a respected homebuilder and member of the Lincoln business community who helped develop the city of Lincoln. Bob graduated from Lincoln High School in 1950 and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering in 1954. He married Joan D. Wells and they had three children. He worked for and eventually ran Peterson Construction Company until 1985. He graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1989 and started his second career at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Omaha until he retired in 2000. His third career was founding a non-profit organization to provide affordable housing and providing job training to inmates, called Prairie Gold Homes/Bar None Housing. Bob was an active member of Lincoln Home Builders, Lincoln Jaycees, the Nebraska State Bar Association, Nebraska Public Power District, Rotary, Crucibles, the Unitarian and First Plymouth churches, and many other organizations.

He is survived by his wife Joan; son Scot Peterson; daughter and son-in-law Peggy Peterson and Brad Milton; and grandchildren Nathan Peterson, Lena Peterson, Evan Milton, and Emily Milton. He was preceded in death by his son, Dan Peterson; parents Marie and Ervin Peterson; and sister Connie Merry.

Stephen M. Sawtell  
January 17, 1931 – July 6, 2015  
Omaha, Nebraska

Stephen M. Sawtell was born in St. Paul, MN, on January 17, 1931, and died in Omaha, NE, on July 6, 2015. Mr. Sawtell attended Harrison and Dundee Elementary grade schools and graduated from Benson High School in Omaha. He attended Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in Lincoln, NE, as well as the Stanford University Graduate School Business Executive Program in Palo Alto, CA. Mr. Sawtell proudly served in the Army as Lieutenant and Battery Commander of an Armored Field Artillery Battery of 155mm howitzers in Korea and Japan. Mr. Sawtell worked for Northern Natural Gas Company (later InterNorth) from 1957-1985, retiring as Vice President and Corporate Secretary. He subsequently became Vice President, General Counsel and a Director of Dubuque Packing Company of Omaha and Executive Vice President of CENI, an integrated cattle joint venture in Dalian, China. Mr. Sawtell was active in numerous civic organizations in Omaha, serving as past President of the Omaha Symphony Association, and in Junior Achievement of Omaha and the Western Heritage Museum. He served as past Chairman of the Omaha Committee on Foreign Relations and past Vice President and Treasurer of the Omaha Community Foundation; past Chairman and Board of Trustees of Countryside Community Church; past Chairman of the First Central Congregational Church Music Committee, Renovation Committee and Expansion Committee; and past Chairman of the Salvation Army’s ARC Council in Omaha and member of the Salvation Army’s Board of Directors in Omaha. Mr. Sawtell was a Founding Member and past President of the Omaha Sister City Association with Shizuoka, Japan; and established a life-long association with Osaka, Japan, following his leadership of an Omaha Downtown Rotary Club Exchange Group to Kyoto, Japan in 1993. A member of Masons and Omaha Downtown Rotary, Mr. Sawtell was named Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1962 by the Omaha Junior Chamber of Commerce and was the 2001 recipient of The Salvation Army Commander Award.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Helen Wencel Sawtell; children Steve Sawtell, Jr. (Julia) and Katherine Del Conte, both of Omaha; grandchildren Kathleen Sawtell, Allison Norris and Thomas Del Conte; nephews Tony Sawtell (Sara) of Santa Fe, NM, and Peter Sawtell (Allyson) of Denver, CO.
**Jane Schoenike Takemoto**  
*September 29, 1950 – August 19, 2015*  
*Elmwood, Nebraska*

Jane Schoenike Takemoto, 64, passed away August 19, 2015, in Elmwood, NE. She died of complications from Lupus, an autoimmune disease. Jane grew up in Oconomowoc, WI. She went on to receive degrees from Macalester College and William Mitchell College of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree. While in Minnesota, Jane was Executive Director of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association and then the Hennepin County Bar Association. Throughout her career, Jane touched many lives. She was passionate about making the legal system fair and accessible to all. She worked tirelessly and believed that lawyers had a responsibility to give back to society through pro bono service. Jane finished her career as Executive Director of the Nebraska State Bar Association, where she helped establish the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation and the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Jane is survived by her husband, Jack Takemoto; sons Michael (Noelle) Aspnes, Sam (Anne Walter) Aspnes and Dan Aspnes; sister Kay (Patrick) Meisenheimer; brother Tom Schoenike; nephews Blake (Angela) Meisenheimer and Brent Meisenheimer; and great-nephew Joseph Meisenheimer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Hazel (Kraut) Schoenike, and brother Steven Schoenike.

**Edward C. Sweigard, Jr.**  
*August 9, 1932 – December 15, 2014*  
*Crest Hill, Illinois*

Edward Charles Sweigard, Jr., age 82, passed away on December 15, 2014, at Joliet Area Community Hospice Home. He was born August 9, 1932, in Omaha, NE, to Edward Charles Sweigard Sr. and Mary Ann (Niksich) Sweigard. He grew up in Omaha, attending Creighton Prep High School, then Creighton University. After proudly serving in the Army he returned to Omaha to attend law school, graduating in 1960. He was a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association. On May 7, 1955, Ed married the love of his life, Maureen Ann Reeder, and they enjoyed 49 years together. Ed served as a Vice President and Trust Officer in the banking industry in DeKalb and Joliet, IL, and Chicago. He retired in 1993 to care for his wife after she suffered a stroke. A wonderfully devoted husband, he cared for her in their home until she passed away in 2004. He enjoyed golf, his stamp and coin collections, coffee, smoking his pipe, singing, reading, traveling, the Chicago Bears, and especially spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Surviving are his four children, Kenneth E. (Stephanie) Sweigard, Ruth A. (James) Sweigard-Colnar, Daniel J. Sweigard, and Eric C. Sweigard; three grandchildren, Kaitlin and Jared Sweigard and Joseph Edward Colnar; his sister, Helen Buglewicz; his brother, William Sweigard; and many nieces, nephews and dear friends. Preceded in death by his wife, Maureen Reeder Sweigard (May 10, 2004); two infant sons, Edward C. Sweigard III and Richard C. Sweigard; his parents; and his sister, Marcia Hardman.
John L. Swyers  
June 16, 1934 – December 6, 2014  
Tallahassee, Florida  
John Lewis Swyers, a kind and gentle man, passed away on December 6, 2014, at age 80. John was born June 16, 1934, in Oil City, PA. At an early age, his family moved to Ohio and then at middle school age to Independence, KS, where he graduated from high school in 1952. He received a bachelor’s degree in Economics and his law degree from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. In 1958, he was commissioned in the United States Air Force and served in the Judge Advocate Generals Corp. While in the service, John earned a master’s degree in Business Administration from St. Louis University. He rose to the rank of Captain and was honorably discharged in 1961. Over the next 45 years, John’s legal career included positions as General Counsel at the Kansas Insurance Department and General Counsel at the Central National Insurance Company of Nebraska. He was a member of the Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Florida State Bars as well as the American Bar Association. In 1972 he went to work for United Services Automobile Association (USAA) in San Antonio, TX, and rose to the position of General Counsel of USAA Life Insurance Company. He was also instrumental in establishing the USAA corporate office in Tampa, FL, before retiring from the company in 1990. He then served the State of Florida in the Office of Insurance Regulation as an Assistant General Counsel, retiring in 2006. During John’s career, he served as a corporate secretary for a number of companies and did extensive lobbying on insurance matters. He served as an officer on many insurance trade associations. John was a voracious reader of books, magazines and other periodicals. He loved being a member of Faith Presbyterian Church and relished studying the Bible. He especially enjoyed his friendships with those in the Men’s Bible Study which he attended faithfully every Monday at noon. His lifetime passion was following baseball. He always looked forward to surf fishing and enjoying the beach when visiting Dog Island. John’s love for wildlife and all God’s creatures was unsurpassed.  

John is survived by his wife of 23 years, Judy Snooks Swyers; three sons, Curtis Swyers and Andrew Swyers of San Antonio, TX, and Steven Swyers of Austin, TX, as well as six grandchildren; two brothers, Charles Swyers of Wichita, KS, and William Swyers of Independence, KS; two step-sons, Thomas Atkinson of Merritt Island, FL, and Troy Atkinson of Tallahassee, FL. John is predeceased by his parents, Bert and Violet Swyers of Independence, KS.

Wayne J. Thompson, Jr.  
November 16, 1932 – May 26, 2015  
Greenwood Village, Colorado  
Wayne J. Thompson, Jr., passed away May 26, 2015. He was a 1984 graduate of the University of Denver College of Law. He graduated with high distinction from the University of Nebraska College of Business Administration in 1959. He was licensed to practice in Colorado and Nebraska. He concentrated his private practice on issues affecting people with disabilities, senior citizens, public employees, and veterans and their families. He served as the State Judge Advocate, Department of Colorado, for 20 years, and had the high honor of serving as the National Judge Advocate General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.  

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty; children Becki James and Wendy (Bryan) Potthoff; and grandchildren Brandon and Austin Potthoff and Alyssa James.
Donald F. Uerling
September 22, 1939 – April 11, 2015
Lincoln, Nebraska
Donald F. Uerling, 75, of Lincoln, died April 11, 2015. He was a retired professor of the College of Education and Human Services at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was a member of St. John’s Catholic Church, Nebraska State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Nebraska Council of School Attorneys, Education Law Association, NSBA Council of School Attorneys, Federal Bar Association and Nebraska State School Board Association.

He is survived by his son Michael of Omaha; daughter Michelle Uerling of Lincoln; granddaughter Olivia; and nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife Lona and 3 infant sons, John, James, and Daniel.

Joseph J. Vance
October 31, 1924 – November 29, 2014
Ralston, Nebraska
Joseph J. Vance, LTJG, U.S. Navy (Ret.), passed away November 29, 2014. WWII veteran; graduate of Creighton Law School; 50-year attorney in Omaha.

Survived by his wife of 64 years, Josephine “Jo” Vance; son Joseph Vance of Lincoln; daughters: Patricia Vance (Michael Rubach) of Conway, AR; Barbara Rief (James) of Katy, TX; Janet Barlow (Robert) of Omaha; and Kathleen Wolford (Paul) of Overland Park, KS; 6 grandchildren: Matt Vance, Chris Vance, Jennifer Wolford, Katie Rief, Ethan Barlow, and Ariel Barlow; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by parents Adolph and Helen Vance; brothers Walt, Bill, and Ralph; and sisters Pat O’Neill and Sylvia Parish.

John William Wilke
February 24, 1951 – September 12, 2015
Omaha, Nebraska
John William Wilke passed away September 12, 2015. He was a beloved husband, father, and brother. John practiced law in Omaha for 38 years. He was previously affiliated with the Sodoro Daly and Sodoro law firm until 1995 and then opened up his own private practice. He was an avid lover of life, his family, golf, and Irish music.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Marlyn; son Jake; daughter Jacque; brothers Jeff (Heidi) and Jay; and sister Janie. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Mary Wilke, brothers Jim and Jerry, and sister JoAnne.
Audie J. Wise  
December 6, 1949 – February 25, 2015  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Audie J. Wise, 65, died February 25, 2015, at The Arbors Memory Care Community, Lincoln. He was a gentle and merry soul who loved joking with his extended family and a compassionate attorney who devoted his career to helping the elderly and disadvantaged at Lincoln Information for the Elderly (Aging Partners), what is now Legal Aid of Nebraska, and at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. He adored singing and was a choir member at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church. Audie volunteered many hours coaching soccer and baseball, feeding injured raptors and supporting nature conservation efforts.

Survivors include wife Suzanne, son John of Lincoln, mother Dorothy of Englewood, CO, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

The Honorable J. DeWayne Wolf  
April 24, 1923 – May 12, 2015  
Kearney, Nebraska  
John DeWayne Wolf, 92, of Kearney, died May 12, 2015. DeWayne was born April 24, 1923, in Kearney, to John D. Wolf and Evelyn M. (Drake) Wolf. On Dec. 18, 1948, he married Beverly J. Goldenstein in Smith Center, KS. Wolf graduated from Kearney High School in 1940 and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While in college, he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He played trombone in the UNL concert and marching bands and later became drum major. During the train trip to march in the 1941 Rose Bowl, DeWayne and six other band members wrote the “Band Song” that is still performed by the Cornhusker Marching Band today. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943, completed basic training at Fort Roberts, CA, then studied engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in preparation for the Manhattan Project. Known by his first name, John, while in the Army, he was assigned to the 11th Armored Division as a “computer” in the Fire Direction Center for an armored field artillery battalion. Technical Sgt. Wolf fought in the Battle of the Bulge, helped liberate the Mauthausen concentration camp, and saw combat in Belgium, Germany and Austria under the command of Gen. George Patton. Upon discharge in 1945, Wolf attended the University of Michigan Law School and graduated in 1948. He returned to Kearney and practiced law for 25 years until his appointment as district judge for Buffalo and Sherman counties from 1976 to 1990. Judge Wolf created the position of child custody officer, the first real effort by a Nebraska court to mediate child custody and visitation issues in the best interests of the children. His “marital property statement” made it easier for attorneys and judges to determine the assets and debts of divorcing couples, so the form was widely adopted by other district courts statewide. After his retirement, Judge Wolf was appointed as an acting justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court to hear several cases. DeWayne was active in civic affairs and helped the city obtain Frontier Airlines as its first commercial airline service. He represented the Kearney Chamber of Commerce in successfully obtaining approval of Interstate 80’s route through Kearney. An avid reader, golfer and Nebraska football fan, DeWayne enjoyed traveling with his wife and friends and hosting family reunions.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly; son Chuck Wolf and wife Melanie Miller of Sugar Land, TX; son John Wolf of Kearney; and daughters-in-law Pam Wolf of Lincoln and Nancy Wolf of Monroe, WA. Wolf’s seven grandchildren are Angela Tullos and husband Jimmy of Flower Mound, TX; Amy Sayre and husband Herb and David Wolf and wife Christina, all of Frisco, TX; Sarah Collinge and husband Max of Bothell, WA; Bethany Robinson and husband Craig of Snohomish, WA; and Andrew Wolf and fiancée Anna Claire Stearns and Becca Wolf, all of Lincoln. He is also survived by eight great-grandchildren and his brother, Robert Wolf, of Champaign, IL. DeWayne’s parents and his youngest son, Stephen Wolf, preceded him in death.
William “Bill” M. Wroblewski  
July 30, 1962 – November 5, 2014  
Lincoln, Nebraska

William “Bill” Wroblewski, age 52, of Lincoln, passed away November 5, 2014. He was born July 30, 1962, in San Angelo, TX, to Peter and Sharon Jean (Radtke) Wroblewski. Bill was a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law and editor of the law review. He was a seasoned marathon runner and was a Boston marathon qualifier.

Survivors include his wife, Lea, of Lincoln; daughters Hannah Wroblewski of Lincoln and Claire and Sophia Wroblewski of Gordon, NE; stepchildren Anastasia, Mary and Franklin Wickizer of Lincoln; parents Peter and Sharon Wroblewski; and brothers and sisters-in-law Joseph and Amanda Wroblewski of Kenosha, WI, and Daniel and Katherine Wroblewski of Bellevue, NE.