



## Judge Alfred Burka

February 27, 1928 - December 31, 2014

Judge Alfred Burka died on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at University of Maryland Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Chestertown, MD. He was 86.

Judge Burka was born on February 27, 1928 and was raised in Washington, DC. He attended Georgetown University and Georgetown Law School and briefly practiced law before going to Korea as a combat infantry officer, where he was awarded his second bronze star with "v" for valor. Judge Burka then entered public life as an Assistant US Attorney for the District of Columbia, until he was appointed as Federal Judge in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia in 1967.

After retirement as a judge, he became a resident of Worton and became active in many professional and social organizations. A popular and gregarious man, he was a leader and major supporter of many Eastern Shore Conservation Groups. He served on the boards of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage. His own farm became a model of wildlife and nature preservation.

Judge Burka was notable for generously supporting many charitable organizations and individuals, too many to list. He was a major figure in establishing and teaching at the National Judicial College in Reno, NV.

He is survived by his children, Susan Walsh of Kensington, MD, and Richard Burka of Gaithersburg, MD, and his brother Dr. Edward Burka of Worton, MD. Final services and interment will be in Washington, DC on Tuesday, January

6, 2015.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 12:00 noon at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. 130 Speer Road – Chestertown, MD.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
[info@fhnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Judge Alfred Burka

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Judge Alfred Burka

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Judge Alfred Burka

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Kimberly Rhoades lit a candle in memory of Judge Alfred Burka



Kimberly Rhoades - May 10, 2015 at 11:20 PM



“ Mary Forsyth lit a candle in memory of Judge Alfred Burka



Mary Forsyth - January 19, 2015 at 09:36 PM

MF

*Always a warm smile, a compliment, or a word of encouragement. A gentle spirit. I am privileged & grateful to have known him.*

**Mary Forsyth** - January 19, 2015 at 09:40 PM



“ 18 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - January 13, 2015 at 07:38 AM

SM

“ I was honored and privileged to have known Judge Burka beginning at Kings Town Tractor Co. over twenty years ago as a great customer. When I decided to seek the Office of Clerk of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County, Judge Burka arrived in my office one day and handed me a check. I quickly told him that his account was zero and that his account was current. He then said, "the check is not for my account, but for your campaign fund for clerk." He humbled me by saying I would be just perfect in that position. He then asked me if I knew an attorney by the name of Tom Ross. I said I did not. Judge Burka then said; "when you are elected please get to know and watch Tom as he is an excellent lawyer, my former law clerk, and someday he should be a judge." Well, I was elected and I did meet Tom Ross, and as Judge Burka correctly observed; Judge Ross is now on our bench, and is one fine jurist. Judge Burka was so right in his assessment of Tom. As a footnote, the statement in his obituary stating; "Judge Burka was notable for generously supporting many charitable organizations and individuals, too many to list" is more than accurate. One day he also arrived in my office to deliver a nice sport shirt to me that he purchased in England when he traveled there on a special run of the Flying Scotsman train. He said to me that when he saw it he immediately thought of me and my scotish heritage. Yes, he supported me and I will miss him. He was so generous and did think of others, often. PS: He was also a Good Republican....

Scott MacGlashan, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County

---

Scott MacGlashan - January 12, 2015 at 05:57 PM

TR

“ I was honored and privileged to serve as Judge Burka's last law clerk in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from November, 1978 though December, 1979. He was a dedicated jurist, extremely knowledgeable and well spoken. He was a teacher and mentor to other judges, as well as to the law clerks who served him. He graced me with his company many times, inviting me hunting (i barely knew one end of the shotgun from the other), to lunches and dinners, affording me the opportunity to represent him as an attorney in several matters, and encouraging me in private practice. He even gave me advice on remedies to help my sick infant son, who was born during my clerkship with him. When I was sworn of as the circuit court judge in Queen Anne's County 11 years ago last Friday, he not only attended, he insisted on buying the robe that I continue to use. I will forever be thankful to have known this man of such a zest for life and keen intellect and uncanny ability to communicate on any level. He will truly be missed. Tom Ross

Tom Ross - January 12, 2015 at 09:54 AM

CS

“ So saddened by your loss. I am blessed to have had the honor of knowing him. He always had a smile and a joke to tell. I can tell you that I was in awe of what a wonderful man and father he was. He will truly missed and thought of fondly.

Christine Strey - January 07, 2015 at 01:16 PM



“ have been very Blessed to have such a wonderful neighbor all these years,,,rest in Peace dear ed



Sharon Siter - January 06, 2015 at 06:35 PM

AS

“ I grew up next to the Burka's in Chevy Chase and have been lifelong friends of Richard, Susie & Jimmy (of blessed memory). I will never forget Al's kindness to all of us kids who ran in and out of their house all day long. He always had a smile on his face and even though we knew he was a Judge he was never intimidating.....even when Richard and I got into trouble! I know it's been a very difficult couple of years for Richard & Susie and we can only hope that they can remember all of the wonderful times they shared with their father, brother and mother. May Al's memory be for a blessing.

---

**Andy Stern** - January 06, 2015 at 03:27 PM

MV

“ We absolutely adored Judge. What wonderful lunches with Ed we had over the years. He lit up a room as he entered meeting our expectations of laughter and fun in his presence. He will be missed, truly. Ed, Suzie and family. Our love to you all, Bruce and Mary Ellen

---

**Mary Ellen and Bruce Valliant** - January 05, 2015 at 05:04 PM

DT

“ i am very saddened for the loss of a very dear friend. Al and I were close friends way back in the day when I was a mere 'young adult' and it was a pleasure having known him and hanging out with him. He was very personable and pleasant and we always had a good time when we would hang out. I have not seen or spoken to him in several years but he always remained a dear friend in my heart and in my fondest of memories. I am very saddened about Al and also this past week with Dr. Mike Forney, a very dear friend of our family for over 40 years. I will miss them both.  
So, to Judge Burka's family, my deepest condolences.

*Debi (Stem) Tran*

---

**Debi Tran** - January 05, 2015 at 11:34 AM

JL

“ I served as Judge Burka's first law clerk when he was appointed in 1967 to the D.C. Court of General Sessions (now the Superior Court of the District of Columbia). Vince Promuto, who played guard with the Washington Redskins, followed me in 1968 as the judge's law clerk. Judge Burka was a wonderful mentor and well respected for his compassion and understanding of the litigants who came before him. He was exceptionally kind and generous with his time and it was a privilege to have known him. I shall remember him and his family in my prayers.  
Jim Lyons

---

**James L. Lyons** - January 05, 2015 at 10:20 AM

SN

“ Kent County has lost a kind and generous man for the very special population he was so generous to.



---

**Sue Nickerson** - January 05, 2015 at 07:57 AM

SW

“ Sandy Price Walton lit a candle in memory of Judge Alfred Burka



---

**Sandy Price Walton** - January 05, 2015 at 07:25 AM

JB

“ Ed so sorry to hear that Al has left us. Glad that I got to see him a few months ago at our Dr's Office. What a great man. Sending prayers!!



Joyce Benton - January 04, 2015 at 04:32 PM

NL

“ Nancy Meeks/Prince Limousine lit a candle in memory of Judge Alfred Burka



Nancy Meeks/Prince Limousine - January 04, 2015 at 02:04 AM

NM

Nancy Meeks/Prince Limousine always enjoyed talking with Judge Burka. He always had a joke or story to tell! He will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Nancy Meeks - January 04, 2015 at 02:08 AM

CK

“ Cindy King lit a candle in memory of Judge Alfred Burka



Cindy King - January 03, 2015 at 09:08 AM

CK

It was an honor to have known the Judge and experienced his generosity of giving to so many organizations. He will be greatly missed as a friend and a philanthropist

Cindy King - January 03, 2015 at 09:10 AM

AH

“ Judge Burka will always be remembered for his kindness, his humor and his generosity. He made a difference in my world and will be sorely missed. Godspeed, my friend.

---

**Allison Harper** - January 03, 2015 at 04:29 AM

LP

“ Judge Burka was a frequent visitor at Flowers by Libby , he was a wonderful man with a giant heart and a smile to match . I am glad I was able to meet such a great man who will always have a special place in my heart and memories .

---

**Lisa Powell** - January 02, 2015 at 07:07 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



---

**Barry Smale** - January 02, 2015 at 04:17 PM

BS

“ All of us at Benedictine Programs and Services are saddened by the passing of Judge Burka. Such a good friend to the children. We will keep him, his family and his loved ones in our prayers. Here is one of the Judge's favorite pictures - it's his barn. Taken last February. May he rest in peace.

---

**Barry Smale** - January 02, 2015 at 04:14 PM