



## John W. Klousia

February 10, 1918 - January 16, 2011

John W. Klousia, a Hampton, Iowa-born educator, school administrator and judge whose long career included helping Norfolk, Va. public schools adjust to integration during the 1960s, died Jan. 16 in Easton, Md. after a short illness. He was 93.

Mr. Klousia was a former instructor at the University of Virginia and assistant to the dean at its Curry School of Education and professor at Western Michigan University when he was hired by Norfolk City Schools in 1960 to become its director of instruction. Six city schools had only recently reopened following their closure in 1958 as part of Virginia's "massive resistance" to integration.

He was instrumental in developing a more racially sensitive curriculum that was employed by the city's public schools. It was also adopted for use by other school districts throughout Virginia and neighboring Pennsylvania.

John Wesley Klousia was born in 1918, the third child of Walter J. and Nina Artley Klousia, on their Hampton, Iowa farm that has been in the family for five generations. His three sisters, Ruth Evans, Kathryn Starner and Helen Werner, preceded him in death.

He began his education in a country school at age four and graduated from

high school in Hampton where he excelled in music, drama and athletics. He attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, earning a degree in history, political science and education and excelling as a wrestler finishing third in his weight class nationally.

Following graduation, he took a job teaching and coaching in Northwood, Iowa. It was there that he met his wife of more than 50 years, Helen Hegland.

Mr. Klousia enlisted in the Navy during World War II and served in the South Pacific as gunnery officer on a Marine transport, the USS Hydrus. He was awarded the Pacific Theater medal, National Defense service medal, and the World War II Victory medal.

Back in civilian life, interrupted by brief service during the Korean War, he began a multifaceted career in education that included positions as high school teacher, coach, principal, college professor, instructor at the National Naval War college and finally superintendent of schools in Mt. Vernon and George, Iowa. It also included post-graduate study at the University of Colorado and the University of Virginia.

He retired in 1976 and returned with Helen to Hampton for life as a "gentleman farmer," growing walnut trees and raspberries, and raising sheep and chickens. For several years, he also served as Franklin County magistrate. The couple maintained a second home in at Green Valley, Ariz., to escape the harsh Iowa winters.

Mr. Klousia was an avid traveler and a lover of history, politics, economics, and sports. He was a long-time member of numerous service organizations including the Kiwanis and Masons, and pursued his interest in history as president of the Franklin County Historical Society. Wherever they lived, John and Helen were always active in the local Lutheran church, where he was

superintendent of the Sunday school.


Survivors include two sons, John Walter Klousia of Alexandria, Va., Paul Klousia of Kofu, Japan, and a daughter, Karen Fisher of Easton, Md.; four grandchildren, John Philip and Margaret Klousia, and Aidan and Nina Fisher; two great-grandchildren, Theodore and Malin Klousia; and a brother-in-law Sherrill Hegland and his wife, Rachel. He is also survived by a close-knit extended family that includes more than 50 nieces, nephews, and their children as well as numerous cousins.

A small service for the immediate family was held at Christ Church in Easton Maryland, and a Memorial service is planned for this summer in Hampton for family and friends.

Memorial donations can be made in Mr. Klousia's name to the Franklin County Historical Society, Franklin County, Iowa 50441.

# Tribute Wall


CA “ *caroline sent a virtual gift in memory of John W. Klousia*



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**caroline** - December 04, 2023 at 03:57 PM

CA “ *caroline lit a candle in memory of John W. Klousia*




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**caroline** - December 04, 2023 at 03:57 PM

 “ *John W. Klousia*


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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM

 “ *John W. Klousia*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM

 “ *John W. Klousia*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about John, I wish to give my sincerest condolences for your loss. I know this is such a difficult time and that John will be truly missed. I hope that the words located at John 5:28,29 can bring you as much comfort as it has me through times like this. This promise of a resurrection and being able to see our dead loved ones again is such a wonderful hope.##imported-begin##Charles##imported-end##

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January 17, 2011 at 03:20 PM