

# Judge Myron H. Bright



Bright, Judge Myron H. 97, died peacefully on December 12, 2016 at the Eventide Fargo Senior Living Facility surrounded by his children and grandchildren. Myron was born March 5, 1919 to Morris and Lena Bright in Eveleth, MN. He and his four siblings grew up in the hearty Iron Range of northern Minnesota. The Bright family was a staple of the Jewish community in the Iron Range and Myron has maintained a deep connection and close ties to the area throughout his life. Myron attended Eveleth High School and graduated from Eveleth Junior College before going on to the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate and law degrees. His college days were interrupted by World War II, during which he honorably served his country as a Captain in the Army Air Corps, stationed in India. He met Frances (Fritzie) Reisler in 1945 and they were married December 1946. After Myron's graduation from law school, the couple moved to Fargo, ND in 1947 where they would make their home for the next 71 years. They were "partners" in every sense of the word until Fritzie's death in October 2000. Myron and Fritzie were active members of the Fargo community and were involved in Democratic politics locally and state wide. Myron joined the law firm of Wattam, Vogel and Vogel which became Wattam, Vogel, Vogel, Bright and Peterson and is now known as Vogel Law Firm. He had a 21 year career as a successful trial attorney, representing a variety of clients throughout North Dakota and Minnesota. In 1968 Myron was appointed as an Appellate Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals for the United States by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Over the course of his judicial career, he presided over more than 7,000 cases and authored more than 3,000 opinions. He was famous for his ground-breaking rulings in the field of civil rights and employment discrimination. Judge Bright complemented his judicial career with a strong involvement in legal education. His awards and accolades are too numerous to mention here. At his death he was the longest serving jurist on the Eighth Circuit. Myron and Fritzie purchased what has come to be known as the "Little Brown Cottage" on Lake Melissa in Detroit Lakes, MN in 1968. From that date to the present it has become the perineal summer home for the entire Bright clan. Myron's summers at the Lake were not to be interfered with and all who visited were welcomed to enjoy the full Bright family hospitality. He enjoyed golfing at the Detroit Lakes CC, tennis and most especially, walleye fishing with family and friends. He was fond of bird watching at the Lake and quite serious about tending to his bird feeders. He and Fritzie were accomplished Bridge and Cribbage players, often hosting their friends for games of cards. When he wasn't working or at the Lake, you could find Myron behind the pages of any newspaper, the New Yorker or a good book. His mind never stopped. He had an incredible memory and the astonishing ability to recall the smallest details of events that took place years ago. He was a friend to all he met and a gift of wisdom and advice to all those who knew him. Myron loved and cherished his family. He referred to them as "the family," using a formal tone, as if it were an official title. "The family" included not only his immediate one, but also the more than 100 law clerks who served him during his 48 years on the bench. He looked forward with great anticipation to the law clerk reunions, which were held every 5 years during his time as a judge. He was known by many titles; Judge, Myron, Mike, Dad, Pops and Poppop. One of his most prized titles was "author," having written and published his autobiography, Goodbye Mike, Hello Judge: My Journey for Justice in 2014. He was an avid sports fan; following the NDSU Bison, UND, the Minnesota Vikings and the Minnesota Twins. He was a supporter of the arts; including the FM Symphony and FM Opera. He was the oldest member of Temple Beth El. He is survived by his family who loved him dearly: daughter, Dinah (Christian) Golding of Fargo, ND; son, Joshua Bright of Excelsior, MN; grandchildren; Amy (Jim) Long of Fargo, ND, Sarianne (Brock) Dickson of Harwood, ND and Adam (Kimberley) Schultz of Shorewood, MN; great-grandchildren; William Bright, Connor James and Henry Elliot Long, Collins Frances and Maxum Brock Dickson; Mason Myron and Addison Marie Schultz; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Bright; parents, Morris and Lena Bright; brothers, Leo Bright, Roy Bright and Joe Bright; and sister, Mabel Bright Manfield. A gathering of friends and family will be held at the Boulger Funeral Home, 123 10th Street S, Fargo on Tuesday, December 20 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. A Celebration of Judge Bright's life will be held at Reineke Fine Arts

Center on the campus of NDSU, beginning at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, December 21 with a reception to follow at the Fargo Country Club beginning at 3:00pm. Arrangements entrusted with Boulger Funeral Home and Celebration of Life Center, Fargo. Guestbook: [boulgerfuneralhome.com](http://www.boulgerfuneralhome.com) (<http://www.boulgerfuneralhome.com>)

*Published on December 18, 2016*

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**Guest Book**

2 comments

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Karl & Melba Gustke 🕒 January 10, 2017

What a great guy... just a pleasure to be around. About the smartest man I've ever known. We will miss him at "the lake". Good bye Judge...hello Heaven!

↩ REPLY

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David Hartman 🕒 December 18, 2016

The Brights were close friends of the Hartman family . Mike and Fritzie were a charming couple. Mike was a pleasant , kind gentleman who always had a smile on his face. He had a special place in his heart for me father and younger brother Bobby. Rest In Peace your Honor.

↩ REPLY