

A Memorial to Hon. Richard D. Galstad

Richard D. Galstad began his life journey on April 9, 1930. He was the only child of Stanley and Esther Galstad of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He graduated in 1948 from Central High School in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Following high school, Dick attended LaCrosse Teacher's College for two years. He then transferred to the University of Wisconsin at Madison and graduated in 1952 with a B.S. degree with an Economics major.

In 1952 Dick started at the University of Wisconsin Law School where he never finished his first semester. Dick had been in the Naval Reserves since age 17. During his first semester of law school, he was called to active duty by the Navy. The Korean War was going and Uncle Sam needed sailors. Dick reported for active duty as an Ensign at the Naval Training Station in Bayonne, New Jersey. There the Navy taught him how to be a supply officer. While training to be a supply officer, he went on a Labor Day Weekend leave to return to LaCrosse to marry his high school sweetheart Patsy Schultz. They returned to Bayonne, New Jersey, for their honeymoon and Dick's final training. When his training was over, Dick was stationed for 2 years at the San Diego Naval Station. While in San Diego, Dick and Patsy had their first child, Kimberly. When asked later in life if he had seen the world while he was in the Navy, Dick replied that he had seen the East Coast and then he saw the West Coast. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1954 at the rank of Lieutenant JG.

Before his discharge, the Navy offered Dick a MBA Scholarship at Harvard if he re-enlisted. Instead, he returned to LaCrosse and lived with Patsy's parents. That Fall, he

returned as a Freshman to the University of Wisconsin Law School. He worked his way through law school holding down 3 jobs including insurance adjuster for two different insurance companies and doing tax preparation.

Dick, graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1957. He got his first job with the help of his mother-in-law, Evelyn Schultz. In the summer of 1957, Evelyn was riding the train from the Twin Cities to LaCross back in the days when people regularly rode trains. She sat with Casey Fugina who was an acquaintance of hers and a partner in the law firm of Fugina, Kostner and Ward with offices located in Arcadia and Osseo, Wisconsin. While gossiping, Evelyn mentioned that her son-in-law had just graduated from law school. Casey said they were looking for an attorney to help John O. Ward in Osseo, Wisconsin. The partners of the law firm thought a Norwegian would be a good fit for both Osseo and John Ole Ward.

Dick worked for and partnered with John O. Ward from 1957 to 1983. While in private practice in Osseo, Dick was active in community and state affairs including:

- Bank of Osseo Board of Directors.
- Charter Member of the Osseo Lions' Club.
- Member of the Masonic Order.
- American Legion where he was District Judge Advocate for 7 years.
- Appointed by Gov. Lee Dreyfus to the State Mining Board and reappointed by Gov. Tony Earl and served as chairman of this board.
- Active in Boys Scouts where he served as Scout Master and on the Executive Board of the Gateway Area Council Executive Board.

-Member of the Osseo-Fairchild School Board 21 years, 19 years of which he served as President.

Dick was also active at home. He had four more daughters with Patsy (Tracy, Lori, Alison, and Meridith).

In 1983 Dick was appointed the Trempealeau County Circuit Judge by then Governor Tony Earl. Judge Galstad later commented that he found this rather unusual since he was Republican and the governor, state senator, and state assemblyman were all Democrats. For the 11 years that Judge Galstad was on the bench, he was known for his knowledge of the law, patience with attorneys and litigants, and fairness.

Judge Galstad honorably served as the Trempealeau County Circuit Court Judge until July 1, 1994 when he retired. Judge Galstad for many years was a faculty member at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. He taught judges how to be better judges. After retiring, he served many years as a Reserve Judge.

Following his retirement, Judge Galstad commented that the most rewarding part of his job was doing adoptions. He found the most difficult and challenging part of his job was doing first degree homicide cases. He also enjoyed weddings. The last wedding he performed was number 300.

One of his favorite stories was when he tipped over in a chair while hearing a personal injury case in Pierce County. The tumble occurred when he leaned back too far during closing arguments to the jury. The fall caused his robe to come up over his head. The shocked jury who thought he had died of a heart attack stared on as Judge Galstad stood up, straightened out his robe, and solemnly commented "and for my next trick . . ."

Judge Galstad ended the journey of his life on May 29, 2014. He will be missed.

Dated: January 9, 2015.

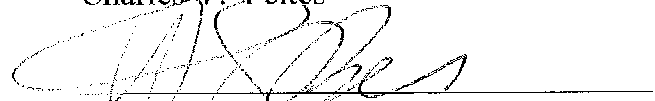
Respectfully submitted,




Hon. John A. Damon



Charles V. Feltes



Frederic J. Berns



Bruce J. Brovold