

A Memorial to  
JOHN OLE WARD  
Presented to the Tri-County Bar Association

This Memorial is in honor of John Ole Ward authorized by President Gene Radcliffe of the Tri-County Bar Association to be placed in the records of the Trempealeau County Circuit Court and the Tri-County Bar Association.

John O. Ward lived life his way. As an attorney he built a large practice and respected reputation as a criminal defense attorney. He also built substantial business interests in Christmas trees, real estate, banking and vacuum cleaners. He contributed financially to his community. His striking personality demanded attention in any gathering.

John Ole was born on September 6, 1918, in Mondovi, Wisconsin. He graduated from Mondovi High School in 1936. He subsequently enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was encouraged to attend the University by Mondovi attorney Ed Larkin. He graduated with a law degree in 1942. This began his life long devotion to the Badger football team.

John enlisted in the Army in World War II after graduation. He was placed in intelligence and served in the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur. He sometimes told the story of his assignment in occupied Japan to find the china stolen by the Japanese in 1942 from General MacArthur's wife, Jean belongings in their Manila apartment. John was uncharacteristically unsuccessful in this assignment. John was honorably discharged and returned to Mondovi.

He began practice in Mondovi with Grover Broadfoot who later became a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He then opened a law office in Osseo, Wisconsin, in 1946. He subsequently joined the law firm of Fugina, Kostner, Quinn and Ward in 1950. The successor to this firm is now known as Kostner, Koslo and Brovold. John Ward often said it was one of his greatest honors when he was asked to join this firm.

Richard Galstad joined John's office in 1957. Richard Galstad was John's partner in the office for 26 years until he became Trempealeau County Judge in 1983.

His general practice thrived over the course of years. He represented all who requested his services. He was an excellent trial lawyer with a booming voice. He obtained not guilty verdicts for more than one accused murderer. He helped establish the Osseo Area Hospital and Nursing Home. His legal services were valued by numerous local governments and financial institutions. His practice was in a wide geographic area. He would often be scheduled in up to four to five courthouses each day.

John embraced his social life with the same zest he applied to work. He enjoyed his opportunities to go boating on the Mississippi. He enjoyed socializing with people from all walks of life. He attended the Tri-County Bar Summer meetings and was one of the proponents of the original purchase of the cottage on Lake Pepin.

He had a golden touch with finances. His accounting training from the University of Wisconsin served him well. John was a long time director and stockholder of the Bank of Osseo now know as



United Bank. He was a partner in a Christmas tree company. He was president of Electric Cleaner Company of Osseo for many years.

He was active in local civic clubs. These included the American Legion, Carl Nelson Post 324, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masonic Lodge and Osseo Commercial Club. He assisted in funding Holiday Lights for Osseo and he donated the land for the Osseo football field which carries his name.

John retired from the active practice of law in 1999. He was of counsel for the firm of Ward, Bilski & Schaumberg. John died on April 18, 2003. He is survived by a son John O. Ward, Jr., two grandchildren John O. Ward, III and Tricia Brekke and three grandchildren. His wife, Pearl, preceded him in death.

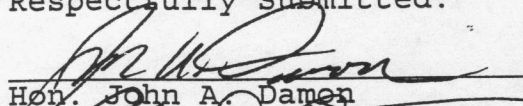
The writers with due respect to Justice Fairchild submit this poem in honor of Attorney Ward:

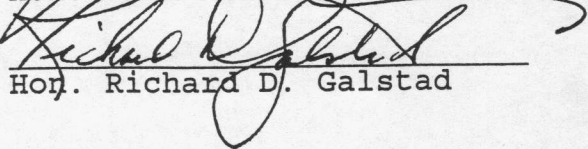
There once was a lawyer named John Ole Ward,  
Who has now gone on to his great reward.  
On reaching the pearly gates,  
he was asked his life to relate,  
John said, "I partook all I could partake.  
If you want to hear the lore,  
It will cost you fifty bucks more."

We will all miss his good company and is considered as irreplaceable by the Tri-County Bar members.

Dated: July 23, 2003

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Hon. John A. Damen

  
Hon. Richard D. Galstad