

**KARL J. GOETHEL  
TRI-COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
MEMORIAL**

Karl Goethel was more than a competent attorney and learned counsel. He was, a trusted friend and confidant to the entire community he served as private counsel and district attorney for over thirty years. No memory of Karl illustrates this fact more appropriately than the story recounted by Karl's longtime friend and colleague the Honorable Gary B. Schlosstein retired Circuit Court Judge for Pepin County.

"Do you have an attorney, sir?", inquired Judge Schlosstein of the criminal defendant brought before him in Pepin County Court. "Yes sir I do." replied the local defendant. "And who is your attorney sir, I only see District Attorney Goethel present in the courtroom.", replied Judge Schlosstein. "Why Karl is my attorney." replied the man. "You understand sir that Mr. Goethel is the District Attorney. He represents the State and has the duty to prosecute you for this alleged offense.", admonished Judge Schlosstein in an attempt to enlighten this defendant with regard to what must surely have been a misconception on his part regarding Karl's presence in the courtroom. "Yes your Honor.", replied the defendant. "I know Karl is the District Attorney but I want him for my attorney too. I know Karl and trust him, whatever he decides should happen about this, I know it will be fair and I'll go along with it."

As a fellow lawyer and colleague of Karl's expressed years later, Karl never abused his power as District Attorney and he always attempted to put himself in the other guy's shoes.

Karl John "Kully" Goethel was born April 7, 1930, to Walter and Mary Goethel of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Karl graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Then, as all good Irish men and women dream of, he attended Notre Dame University in South

Bend, Indiana and graduated in 1952. Karl served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954 and following his discharge from the Army returned to Notre Dame University where he attended and graduated from Law School in 1957. Upon graduation from Law School, Karl returned to Eau Claire where he was employed by the law firm of Herrick and Siegel. In 1959, the young and ambitious attorney ran for a seat in the State Legislature and won. Karl served as the Representative from what is now the 93rd Assembly District in Eau Claire from 1959 to 1961. 1959 was an exciting time in Karl's life as that was also the year that he was married to June Benedict. Karl and June raised three daughters and two sons, Elizabeth Ann, Jennifer Marie, Nancy Joanne, Karl Walter and Michael John. After serving his term in the Legislature, Karl and his young family moved to Durand where he became an associate with the Ryan Laue practice. Karl was first elected Pepin County District Attorney in 1964 and from that triumph, went on to string together 16 consecutive terms as the residents of Pepin County's choice for their Chief Law Enforcement Official. Karl's 31 years of consecutive service in the District Attorney's Office for Pepin County is, as far as anyone can tell, a State record for longevity in that office. To be elected to public office 16 times in a row certainly can be held out as a true measure of Karl's honesty, trustworthiness and his unique ability to communicate on a very human level with all types of people.

Karl was a member of the Tri-County Bar Association, State Bar of Wisconsin, Wisconsin District Attorney's Association, American Legion Post No. 181 of Durand, a charter member of the Durand Lions Club, a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, he was on the Board of Directors of the Durand Rod and Gun Club, a member of the Democratic Party and a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Durand.

Karl's numerous community activities, brought him and his rapier wit in contact with the citizenry. Many a colleague, client, adversary or onlooker draws a smile in the memory of Karl as he never missed an opportunity for a joke and his good humor



livened up a myriad of dry meetings and court proceedings.

Karl was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 1994. Karl battled tenaciously with his illness and was continuing that fight when in early February 1996, he was honored in a ceremony acknowledging his 31 years of service to Pepin County as District Attorney. He was bestowed the unprecedented honor of a Citation drafted by the Wisconsin State Assembly in a Joint Resolution honoring his many years of service to the people of Pepin County. This Citation was presented by State Representative Barbara Gronemous. Later that month, on February 23, 1996 Karl John Goethel passed away. Although Karl is no longer with us, his memory permeates the practice of law in Pepin County and the halls of the courthouse echo with his wit.

The heartfelt comments of Karl's closest associates and friends allowed the ceremony held in his honor to provide a flavor of the feelings Karl evoked in his fellow human beings.

The Honorable Judge Dane Morey, "Karl, we go back a long way, over thirty years working in the law. Karl has always shown integrity, honesty, and never made a promise he didn't fulfill. I'm proud to have been a colleague of yours."

Attorney Bob Loberg, "I've known Karl for over twenty years. I respect his wit and his compassion. He set realistic goals and got the job done. You never abused your power, and I will cherish our encounters forever."

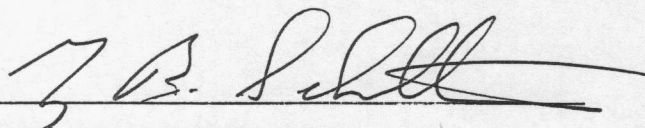
The Honorable Judge Gary Schlosstein, "Karl knew everyone in the County, and everyone knew him. When you pick a jury, you ask if any of them know any of the attorneys involved in the case, well in the case of Karl we had to work around that because if we didn't, we would have had to have moved every trial out of Pepin County. He was a trusted friend and advisor to many. A client's trust in Karl Goethel was always well founded. I remember the time the State called Karl up and told him about

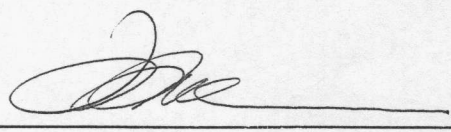
this football pool that was being run in one of the local liquor establishments, well, Karl just told them, "Yah, I got couple of numbers on that pool myself." With Karl Goethel we had country justice at its best! Everyone benefited from knowing Karl Goethel, he was a thoughtful, kind, great man. We love you, Karl!!!"

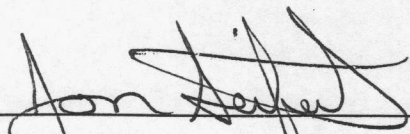
In his honor and memory, the Courts in the counties of Buffalo and Pepin closed on the day of his funeral. Attorneys representing the legal profession from those and many other counties, the profession loved and honored by Karl J. Goethel gathered together in his memory.

Presented at the Mid-Winter meeting of the Tri-County Bar Association on January 10, 1997 and filed with the Pepin County Circuit Court in honor of the memory of Karl J. Goethel.

GOETHEL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE,

BY:   
Hon. Gary B. Schlosstein  
Retired Circuit Court Judge

BY:   
James Duvall, Attorney

BY:   
Jon D. Seifert, Attorney

CIRCUIT COURT  
Pepin County, Wis.  
**FILED**

APR 17 1998

  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT