

RESOLUTION

RETIREMENT TO INACTIVE SENIOR STATUS

of

THE HONORABLE LYLE E. STROM

United States District Judge

District of Nebraska



Presented by:

The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

United States District Court Judge

District of Nebraska

We, the Judges of the Eighth Circuit, gathered at the 2019 Judicial Conference, observe that our friend and colleague, the Honorable Lyle E. Strom, retired to inactive senior status on December 1, 2017, having served 32 years as a United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. This occasion permits us to recognize the outstanding contributions Judge Strom made to our profession and to the people he served.

Judge Strom was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on January 6, 1925. After serving in the United States Merchant Marines during World War II, he graduated from Creighton University, and from Creighton Law School, with distinction, in 1953. He was widely respected as one of the premier trial lawyers in the state of Nebraska during his career in private practice. He shared his knowledge of the art of litigation by teaching trial advocacy at Creighton Law School for 33 years, and also served as director of its law student internship program from 1996 to 2005.

On November 1, 1985, when Strom was 60 years of age, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the United States District Court bench. Judge Strom often noted with pride that his appointment coincided with All Saints Day. Although his age at the time of appointment was greater than that of most newly appointed federal judges, his robust health, vibrant energy, and irrepressible enthusiasm ensured a long, productive, and very distinguished judicial career. During Judge Strom's tenure as chief judge, from 1987 to 1994, he spearheaded the campaign to secure a new federal courthouse in Omaha, and he oversaw construction of the landmark building.

Throughout his career as a lawyer and a judge, Judge Strom was renowned for leading by example, in promoting collegiality, civility, professionalism, and good humor. He served as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, a fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a Bronze Fellow in the Nebraska State Bar Foundation, a delegate in the Nebraska State Bar Association's House of Delegates, President of the Omaha Rotary Club, Chairman of the Mid-America Council, Boy Scouts of America, President of the Omaha Bar Association, President of the Nebraska State Bar Association, chair of the Eighth Circuit's Gender Fairness Task Force, and as a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Practice and Procedure and the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council's Committee to Restructure the Circuit's Judicial Conference. His expertise in legal writing and analysis benefited the bench and bar through his drafting of Nebraska Model Jury Instructions, Nebraska Rules of Evidence, and law review articles. He was among the first federal judges to note the disparate racial impact of the federal sentencing guidelines related to crimes involving powder cocaine *vis a vis* crack cocaine, and he testified before Congress in support of amendments to the guidelines to address that disparate impact.

Judge Strom was honored with the Omaha Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Eighth Circuit Professionalism Award from the American Inns of Court, and the Creighton University School of Law Faculty Award. The Nebraska Bar Foundation's High School Mock Trial Competition was named in his honor in recognition of his many years of leadership in that competition at the state and national levels. A

pupillage of the Robert M. Spire American Inn of Court also bears his name in honor of his many years of service to the American Inns of Court as a master of the bench. The Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored Judge Strom's service to scouting by bestowing him with its Frontier District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, the William Spurgeon Boy Scout Explorer Award, and the Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award.

Judge Strom was a devoted husband to his late wife, Regina, and the couple raised seven children. His new inactive senior status allows him to be very *active*, traveling around the world, to enjoy the company of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He continues to be a valued advisor to his colleagues on the federal bench, and we are most grateful.