

RESOLUTION  
Regarding the Retirement to Inactive Senior Status  
of  
The Honorable Warren K. Urbom  
United States District Judge  
District of Nebraska

Presented by  
The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp  
Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
District of Nebraska



We, the bench and bar of the Eighth Circuit, gathered at the 2014 Judicial Conference, observe that our friend and colleague, the Honorable Warren K. Urbom, took inactive senior status on April 25, 2014, having served 44 years as a United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. This occasion permits us to recognize the outstanding contributions Judge Urbom made to our profession and to the people he served.

Judge Urbom was born in Atlanta, Nebraska, on December 17, 1925. He graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University (with highest distinction, 1950) and the University of Michigan College of Law (with distinction, 1953), then practiced law in Lincoln, Nebraska, until April 24, 1970, when President Richard M. Nixon appointed him to the bench. During his tenure on the bench, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judicial Center, and chaired the Center's committee on orientation for newly-appointed district judges. He also served on the Eighth Circuit committee on model jury instructions; the Nebraska Supreme Court's committee on pattern jury instructions; the United States Sentencing Commission Advisory Board; the State-Federal Judicial Council of Nebraska; and as president of the United States District Judges' Association for the Eighth Circuit. He was chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska for fourteen years.

Judge Urbom worked tirelessly throughout his career to educate the public about the justice system, and to promote civility and ethics in the practice of law. He taught trial advocacy at the University of Nebraska College of Law for ten years, and presented countless legal

education seminars for attorneys, judges, and law students. He co-founded the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, the first such Inn in Nebraska, and was its administrator for ten years.

Judge Urbom presided over more than 800 trials and imposed over 1400 sentences. His career reflected a creative, innovative quest for justice. He imposed thoughtful alternative sentences; allowed jurors ask questions; permitted Native American witnesses to take their oath on a sacred peace pipe; and provided a certified interpreter for a juror not fluent in English. Judge Urbom volunteered to preside over many cases in other jurisdictions, including a series of criminal trials related to the Wounded Knee uprising of 1973. Judge Urbom's fairness and calm demeanor won the respect of the Sioux tribe, whose members stood to honor him at the close of the lengthy proceedings.

Judge Urbom's service to the legal profession and his community were widely recognized. He received the Outstanding Legal Educator Award and Legal Pioneer Award from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation; the Liberty Bell Award from the Lincoln Bar Association; the Distinguished Service Award from the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln; the Executive of the Year Award from Professional Secretaries International; the Lifetime Mentor Award from the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court; honors and awards from Nebraska Wesleyan University and its Alumni Association; membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers; and the prestigious Lewis F. Powell Award for Professionalism and Ethics from the American Inns of Court. In 2013, his book, *Called to Justice: The Life of a Federal Trial Judge* (University of Nebraska Press), received the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction Autobiography.

Judge Urbom's most cherished life-time achievement was his loving family. On August 19, 1951, he married Joyce Crawford, and they were blessed with four children.