



## John David Maley

October 15, 1930 - March 11, 2014

Judge John David Maley, born October 15, 1930, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, after suffering a heart attack. He was the son of Mary Frances Myers Maley, a missionary nurse, and Emil Franklin Maley, an Okmulgee oil and gas attorney.

John David graduated from Okmulgee High School and following in his father's footsteps attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia before being called home due to illness in the family. He subsequently graduated from Oklahoma University in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, earned his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the OU School of Law and was admitted to the bar and to practice before the US Supreme Court in 1959. He was also a member of the Phi Alpha Delta fraternity. In the interim he became an Air Force pilot and served in Europe, Africa and Turkey and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He also was one of the few to wear both Command Pilot and Judge Advocate General, JAG, insignias, and was a retired Colonel in the Air Force Reserve for over 30 years. During his tour of duty he was awarded the Italian Solidarity Star by the Italian Government for his humanitarian missions during Europe's blizzard of 1956. He was selected to represent the US Air Force in a private audience with Pope Pius XII in which one of his fellow flyers yelled out "Three cheers for the Pope: 'Hip, Hip Hooray.'"

Upon his return to Okmulgee in 1959 John David opened his law practice and

in less than a year was elected Okmulgee County Judge, the youngest seated judge in Oklahoma at age 34. In 1964 he was elected District Judge for Okmulgee, Okfuskee and Creek counties. In his capacity as judge he was the longest seated judge in Oklahoma after nearly 50 years on the second floor of the historic Okmulgee County Courthouse. He also served as the district's only Chief Justice. In 1987 he became presiding judge for the ten counties comprising the East Central Administrative District. During his career on the bench he was the president of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference, past president and one of the founders of the Oklahoma Trial Judges Association and a 50 year member of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Currently he was of counsel with the Law Firm of Seacat & Seacat, Okmulgee. In addition to writing precedent opinions for the Oklahoma Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals he is given credit for the implementation of the black robes worn by Oklahoma County judges. It was suggested to him and he approved the idea of respect for the court and donned the first black robe, a used discard from his church's organist!

Judge Maley's honorable life extended far beyond the bench and he lived the Golden Rule in both his courtroom and daily activities. An active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Okmulgee from birth, he taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, was a member of the "Session" and even gave a few sermons when called upon. His devotion to the Word of God extended to a summer in the pulpit in Checotah to fill a temporary vacancy. He loved and was active in The Boy Scouts of America, a lifelong member, receiving the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award given for voluntarism. He was a past board member of the Salvation Army receiving the "Others Award" for outstanding service and past member of the Tulsa Philharmonic board bringing concerts to Okmulgee. He was also a dedicated member of the Lions Club and was a Melvin Jones Fellow of that organization. As much pleasure as he received from his service to those organizations he also enjoyed flying, golf, story telling, good food and wine, his days crewing at W&L, playing the

saxophone, the Tulsa Men's Club and the Chaine des Rotisseurs.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Louise, and son John Maley and wife Anita of Tulsa, daughters Mary Ellen Bull and husband Steven of San Antonio, Ann Kapp and husband Roger of Victoria, TX, Donna Summers and husband Brian of Okmulgee and son Jimmy Martin and wife Ginger of Atlanta, GA, and 12 grandchildren, Chris Maley, Emma Maley, Patrick Maley, Ellen Bull, Emily Bull, Stephanie Bull, John Martin, Bryan Martin, Auburn Jacobs, Jason Summers, Jonathan Summers and Chris Summers and 4 great-grandchildren, Gavin and Josiah Jacobs and Carter and Adden Summers.

John David's life is a model for a life well lived. His Oklahoma roots were the source of his integrity and pride in his state and his service to it. Community meant everything to him, particularly his hometown, Okmulgee. It was his residence of choice even though the world beckoned. He chose the community he loved to pursue his career and raise his family living most of his life in the Maley family home, an Okmulgee landmark. His tall lean stature, impeccably tailored appearance and unsurpassed character will be forever remembered, respected and admired by all who knew him, loved him and whose lives were made better because of him. At the age of 83 he hadn't even begun to get old.

Funeral services for Judge Maley will be held 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the First Presbyterian Church in Okmulgee. Interment will follow the service at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

The family requests in lieu of flowers remembrances be made to The First Presbyterian Church of Okmulgee, 401 S. Seminole Ave., Okmulgee 74447, The Indian Nations Council of the Boy Scouts of America, 4295 S. Garnett, Tulsa 74146 or your charity of choice.

Services are pending with McClendon-Winters Funeral Home, 303 E. 7th St., Okmulgee, OK.

# Cemetery Details

## Okmulgee Cemetery

2601 South Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-5109

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home Chapel  
303 E. 7th Street  
Okmulgee, OK

## Funeral Service

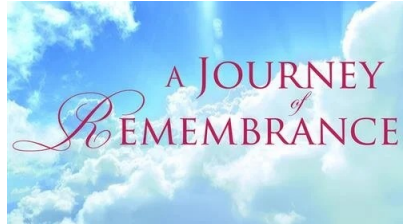
MAR 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
401 South Seminole  
Okmulgee, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *McClendon-Winters Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John David Maley*



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**McClendon-Winters Funeral Home** - March 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *John David Maley*

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December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ *I still have the Holy Bible John Maley gave to me as my Sponsor at my Baptismal at the First Presbyterian Church in 1961. Although not residing in Okmulgee since 1965 and only seeing Judge Maley every few years, he still called me by Christian name and surname. Extreme regrets to the family and Godspeed. Michael Moore*

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**Michael Moore** - March 25, 2014 at 03:52 PM

DK

“ I remember John David telling the story of doing aircraft training maneuvers in the Air Force while in England, west of London. He and the other pilots were were doing a left turn, and someone said "hey, look, their is Stonehenge.". that was a coincidence. I always liked that story. thank John for being an inspiration.

daniel kline - March 20, 2014 at 10:39 PM

VH

“ Vicki Hohmann lit a candle in memory of John David Maley



Vicki Hohmann - March 19, 2014 at 09:07 AM

LW

“ I remember one day I was at the Warehouse Market on 8th street. I was paying out at the register and came up short one dollar and some change. I told the little lady at the checkout stand I would just put this item back, and Judge Maley said, "No, here let me give her the money." I said, "No that's o. k. Judge Maley." Anyway, he insisted and paid the balance of my bill. I told him I would be at his office the next day and pay him back, which I am sure he never expected me to show up, but I did, and I think he was quiet surprised. But... that let's you know what a wonderful man he was. Lois Kolakowski Walker.

Lois Kolakowski Walker - March 18, 2014 at 02:16 PM

DM

“ *Debbie Moore lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



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**Debbie Moore** - March 18, 2014 at 01:54 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know the judge to well but when I talked to him I sure liked him. I am sad for Ann and her family.*

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**Chandra Baldrige-Hollison** - March 18, 2014 at 01:34 PM

NJ

“ *John was indeed a gift to the Oklahoma judiciary and the people he served. By co-founding the Oklahoma Trial Judges Association he gave Oklahoma judges a voice in the legislature which over the years resulted in the strong judiciary we see today. John, you have the thanks and gratitude of judges statewide.*  
*Judge Niles Jackson*

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**Niles Jackson** - March 18, 2014 at 11:11 AM

AR

“ *Angela Reed lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



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**Angela Reed** - March 17, 2014 at 11:41 AM

LB

“ As a child my parents divorced. At the age of 9 I requested the opportunity to speak with the Judge on my own behalf. Judge Maley treated me as an adult and allowed me to speak freely. He was an integral part of learning to speak and think for myself. This is a lesson I hope to pass on to future generations. I honestly believe this to be a defining moment I my life. He will be sorely missed.

Laurie Biby - March 16, 2014 at 03:07 PM

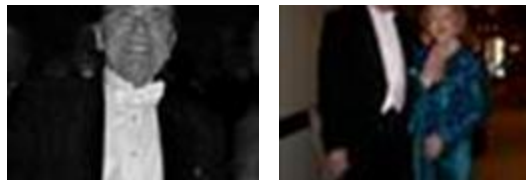
JJ

“ I went to Okmulgee as an Assistant DA Labor Day of 1970 and in June was appointed Special Judge. I have a lot of respect for Judge Maley. He never told me how to decide any case; that was my job. He did suggest one time that my secretary was wearing her skirt too short; he was right. After I left that position to run for office he suggested that I have business cards with my name as large as I could get it. He always conducted hearings fairly; I especially noticed this while I was the elected DA. John Maley was a good friend and will be missed.

James D Jordan - March 16, 2014 at 02:17 PM

KA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Karen Arutunoff - March 16, 2014 at 12:38 PM

KA

*"White tie" never looked better. Great "arm candy" helps!*

Karen Arutunoff - March 16, 2014 at 12:39 PM

KA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Karen Arutunoff - March 16, 2014 at 12:19 PM

KA

*New Year's Eve 2010. The court is in session. The honorable Judge John David Maley presiding, much to his surprise! Expert witnesses to his exemplary life: Dr. and Mrs. Bob Mackey, Linda Welch, Louise Maley and Karen Arutunoff, bailiff, Toly Arutunoff. Sentenced to endure his silly friends dressed in black (bath) robes and white damask napkins.  
A life well lived includes taking time to have big fun!*

Karen Arutunoff - March 16, 2014 at 12:26 PM

PW

“ Phyllis Wynn lit a candle in memory of John David Maley



phyllis wynn - March 15, 2014 at 04:40 PM

DN

“ John David was the coordinator for the OHS class of 1948 from our first one through the latest one held this past October. His expertise, dry witty sense of humor and general overall knowledge, made each of these an event to remember for ages. Our class, the bar association and especially the citizens of Okmulgee are greatful for his zest, honesty and love of life. In closing this chapter of his life, I would say to him; JD you have lived the good and wholesome life.....Goodbye dear Friend. Don Neville

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**Don Neville** - March 15, 2014 at 10:13 AM

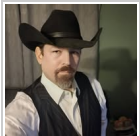
LP

“ Laurie Fitzpatrick & Jim Pittman lit a candle in memory of John David Maley



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**Laurie Fitzpatrick & Jim Pittman** - March 14, 2014 at 04:37 PM



“ I have only known the judge a few years. My wife's family has known him for many years and through my interactions and conversations with him I came to admire and respect the gentle wise soul he was. He will be missed. Yet another beacon of light and hope has passed beyond us and this land is a darker place for it.

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**DV Desmo** - March 14, 2014 at 02:04 PM

PC

“ *Pat Canny lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



Pat Canny - March 13, 2014 at 11:53 AM

Jeremy Reed

“ *When he rented his childhood home out to us, I was only a child at the time. I found his train set he had thought he had lost years ago. My father and I had presented to him when he had made as visit.*

Jeremy Reed - March 13, 2014 at 08:54 AM

SS

“ *Sally Sprouse lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



Sally Sprouse - March 13, 2014 at 08:27 AM

Glen Graham

“ *Glen Graham lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



Glen Graham - March 13, 2014 at 07:04 AM



*A good judge who will be missed. A man's man who you could count on to tell you like it is, good stories, great memories.*

**Glen Graham** - March 13, 2014 at 07:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



**Glen Graham** - March 13, 2014 at 07:00 AM

DS

“ *Deon Stark lit a candle in memory of John David Maley*



**deon stark** - March 13, 2014 at 12:04 AM

DJ

“ *I will definitely miss Judge Maley popping into to my office to see how things were going and to tell me some story of his law practice, meant to impart some wisdom or advice to help make my life as a lawyer better. Thanks Judge. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Debbie Johnson** - March 12, 2014 at 08:17 PM

JC

“ Okmulgee has lost a Legend...my sincere sympathy to all of his family.

Jeneane Campbell - March 12, 2014 at 06:10 PM

DG

“ When I heard of John's passing, my first thought was I never imagined a time he would not be on this earth. His passion for the law will be missed, but it will live on in all of us that he touched and inspired. My thoughts and prayers are with his spirit and his family.

Doug Golden

Doug Golden - March 12, 2014 at 05:48 PM

JM

“ John Maley was not only a husband, family man, attorney, Judge, Okmulgee native, he was involved and gave much of his free time to our community. His love for his church and the local, national and international Lions Club was well known. He inspired many of us with his active involvement in our club. Our respect and love to his wife Louise, Donna, Jim and his grandchildren and other family.



Jim McClendon - March 12, 2014 at 02:25 PM

RJ

“ I Salute You Judge Maley,

*Our community has lost a great man. Was glad to get to know while serving as a Probation & Parole Officer. Was proud to introduce my young son to you a couple of months ago and you shared some of your stories with him about the time you spent as a Boy Scout Leader. He was very impressed with your stories and had a lot of question about you after our visits. I greatly appreciate all you have done while serving in our military, on the bench and in scouting. You are an inspiration to many and will be greatly missed.*

*Robert F. Marek, Jr*

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**Robert F. Marek, Jr.** - March 12, 2014 at 01:12 PM

RJ

“ I salute Judge Maley,

*Our community has lost a great man. Was*



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**Robert F. Marek, Jr.** - March 12, 2014 at 01:10 PM



*He was a big supporter of BSA, should we arrange a tribute, perhaps color guard salute with the troops?*

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**Dave Crow** - March 14, 2014 at 08:47 AM

LO

*I hope you do. He approved my board of review for my eagle a few years back. Wish I could be there to go myself.*

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**Logan** - March 15, 2014 at 11:54 AM

LI

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. He was a most amazing man. He will be missed.

Linda - March 12, 2014 at 11:38 AM

C1

“ Char Adams OHS 1960 lit a candle in memory of John David Maley



Char Adams OHS 1960 - March 12, 2014 at 11:02 AM

RM

“ Judge Maley will be truly missed. I loved watching him work on taxes with his trusty no.2 pencil. He always had a story to tell and a joke to go with it.

Regina Meyer - March 12, 2014 at 08:35 AM

 Glen  
Graham

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Glen Graham - March 12, 2014 at 07:47 AM

CC

*I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jude Maley. He was a truly good man who dedicated his life to serve the public Like many, I got to know the Judge at the First Presbyterian Church in Okmulgee. He served as an example of what a man should be on the bench, in business and in his personal life. He will be greatly missed.*

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**cris campbell** - March 12, 2014 at 08:02 AM

TK

“ *What an honor it was to spend 25 years of my life working for this man! He had more compassion for people than anyone I've ever known. A true public servant of the highest integrity! He was more than my boss, he was my friend!! He will be greatly missed!! Praying for his family!*

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**Tricia Key** - March 11, 2014 at 10:55 PM

GS

*Sending our sympathy to the family of this true gentleman.*

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**Glenn & Shirley Scott** - March 12, 2014 at 07:53 PM

MR

*Okmulgee community has lost a truly great man. He served his Country, the City, his Church, a lifetime member of the Salvation Army, so helpful to the Boy Scouts, an active alum of the OHS Class of 1948 and loyal to his many friends. Thoughts & prayers to Louise and family.*

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**Marilyn Rabbitt** - March 13, 2014 at 12:11 PM

DS

*Judge Maley was a great guy who I respected greatly. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be truly missed.*

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**Darrin Schmidt** - March 13, 2014 at 04:02 PM