



It is with with deep regret that we inform you about the death of WV Supreme Court Justice Joe Albright.

Remarks from Chairman Nick Casey are [here](#).

His obituary follows:

West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Albright died Friday evening, March 20, 2009, at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian of complications of esophageal cancer. He was 70.

He was born in Wood County, West Virginia, on November 8, 1938. Justice Albright was a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia for nearly ten years. He was appointed to the Court in September 1995 by then-Governor Gaston Caperton and served until December 1996. He was elected to a twelve-year term on the Court in 2000 and served as Chief Justice in 2005.

Prior to serving on the Supreme Court, Justice Albright was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, from 1970 to 1972 and from 1974 to 1986. He was elected the Fifty-Second Speaker of the House, serving in that capacity from 1985 to 1986. He served a total of fourteen years in the House of Delegates, where he also was Chairman of the Committee on Education from 1977 to 1978 and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1979 to 1984.

Justice Albright holds the distinction of being one of only three people to have been elected to the Court after having left the Court. The others are the first Justice, Ralph Lazier Berkshire, and current Justice Margaret Workman.

Justice Albright earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame and his law degree from the Notre Dame Law School. At Notre Dame Law School, he won the Webber Prize for Appellate Advocacy and was a member of the Notre Dame Law Review.

When not serving on the Supreme Court, Justice Albright practiced law in Parkersburg and surrounding counties. He served as an assistant prosecuting attorney of Wood County and was a city attorney for the City of Parkersburg. He also served on a number of public and quasi-public boards and commissions, including the Parkersburg Charter Board from 1969-1970, when Parkersburg adopted a new city charter.

Since 1959, he had been an officer and director of Albright's of Belpre, Inc., a family corporation which owns and operates Belpre Furniture, a retail furniture business with locations in Belpre, Ohio, and Parkersburg.

He was an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Parkersburg.

Justice Albright's life was one of service - service to his family, his church and his state. He gave his all to each. He loved his family very much.

He is survived by his wife, the former Nancie Gensert Divvens; three children, Terri Albright Cavi, Dr. Lettie Albright Muckley, and Joseph P. Albright, Jr., Esq.; and three step-children, Susan Divvens Bowman, Debbie Divvens Rake, and Sandy Divvens Fox. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia Ann Deem, and their son, John Patrick Albright.

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Leavitt Funeral Home, 403 Seventh Street, Parkersburg. A Rosary Service will be held at the funeral home at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 532 Market Street, Parkersburg.