

1997

George F. Ellison

Born April 13, 1926, in Muncy Valley Hospital, George Foster Ellison grew up in Wolf Township with his parents and brother. He attended the Villa Grove one room school from 1932 to 1940, then continued his schooling in Hughesville.

Upon graduation from Hughesville High School in 1944, Judge Ellison entered naval military service which included duty in Okinawa. Following his undergraduate study at Middlebury College in Vermont, he attended Cornell Law School gaining his degree in June 1953. He and his wife moved to Vermont where he practiced private and then corporate law. In 1970 he was appointed to the District Trial Court where he served as criminal and family court judge until his retirement in 1993.

On the bench he was respected for his firmness and fairness and for his creative and innovative administration. His compassion and understanding in juvenile cases was considered outstanding, and he is remembered as a founder of Windsor County Partners, a non-profit organization for first time juvenile offenders, the first such program in the state. He also became deeply committed to and involved in Domestic Violence issues, serving on the Judicial Task Force on Gender Bias in the Judiciary, the Vermont Task Force in Domestic Violence, and the Windsor County Task Force on Domestic Violence.

In 1953 he married Nancy Sprout from Picture Rocks and Philadelphia. They raised their three children, Walter, Robin, and Gayle, in White River Junction until her death in 1985. In 1988 he married Molly Lofgren and they presently reside in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

His family and church are important components of his life. His other interests include ornithology, environmental concerns, and public service. With his elder son, he participated in collecting

field data and writing for The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Vermont published in 1985. This project covered a span of seven years and had the distinction of being the first such statewide atlas to be published in the United States.

He continues his involvement in the area of Domestic Violence, organizing educational and community programs.