

Harold Schultz, 85, ex-state senator and Ramsey judge

In retirement, he served as a part-time judge on Minnesota Court of Appeals.

STAR TRIBUNE JUL. 1, '03

By Nolan Zavoral
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Harold Schultz loved the law.

"Being a judge was his life's work, and he was very good at what he did," his daughter, Peggy Brettingen of Tonka Bay, said Monday.

Schultz, 85, whose health had been declining, died early Monday in Marian Center in St. Paul, where he lived with his wife of 62 years, Antoinette. A St. Paul native and former DFL minority leader in the state Senate, Schultz served as a Ramsey County District Court judge from 1963 until his mandatory retirement at age 70 in 1987.

He heard every sort of case, from high-profile murders to divorces. His son, Harold (Hap) Schultz II, second oldest of nine children, remembered watching his father on the bench.

"He was very patient and approachable," Hap Schultz said. "He was stern when he had to be, but he was the type of person who loved helping people when he could, when he felt it was appropriate."

Three of the Schultz children followed their father into law: Hap, of Maplewood, is an administrative law judge for the state; Teresa Warner, of White Bear Lake, is a judge in Ramsey County District Court; and Larry Schultz, of Vadnais Heights, is a Ramsey County prosecutor.

Their father didn't diagram their future, Hap said — "he just led by example."

Schultz was raising a young family when he was

Senate, where he served from 1950 to 1962, and was the minority leader late in his tenure.

However, Schultz still found time for his growing family.

"He was a wonderful father — especially considering how busy he was as a politician and a judge," Hap said.

After he retired as a Ramsey County judge, Schultz was named to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, serving part time, until he was 80.

"His mind stayed sharp to the end. He was still getting calls for mediations up to a month or two ago," said his daughter Peggy.

The son of a railroad laborer, Schultz was born on Dec. 4, 1917. He graduated from the College of St. Thomas in 1939, served in the Navy during World War II and earned his law degree from St. Paul College of Law, now William Mitchell, in 1948.

Besides his wife and his brother, Daniel, from St. Paul, Schultz is survived by his nine children: Hap, Peggy, Teresa, Larry, Sue Mockenhaupt, of St. Paul; Jean King, of Coon Rapids; Mary Schultz, Tom Schultz and Toni Kvamme, all of White Bear Lake. In addition, there are 19 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Phalen Park Funeral Home, 1235 Arcade St., in St. Paul, followed by a vigil. The funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Casimir Catholic Church, 934 Geranium Ave. E., in St. Paul.



Harold Schultz was a former DFL minority leader in the state Senate. "He just led by example," said one of his sons.

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