The Honorable James P. Buchele ’66, a former Shawnee County District Court judge and U.S. Attorney for the district of Kansas, died May 29, 2003, at a Topeka hospice. He was 61.

Judge Buchele, who had cancer, died just 17 days after he was honored at a roast attended by more than 300 people. The gathering, a combination roast and toast, celebrated his many accomplishments with jokes and fun as well as serious moments. Judge Buchele was known for his great sense of humor.

During his more than 18 years on the bench, Judge Buchele handled a variety of cases. For five years he dealt with family law matters, including trying divorces, deciding child custody questions and refereeing domestic disputes. He also handled several high-profile murder trials.

While in law school in 1965, he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives. He held the post until 1972. He also had been Topeka city attorney and was administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Martha Keys in the mid-1970s.

Following retirement from the bench in 1999, Judge Buchele and Larry R. Rute ’73 created Associates in Dispute Resolution Inc. in Topeka. The company used an extensive panel of retired judges, law professors and experienced litigators to handle all forms of dispute resolution. He also worked as a senior judge, serving on the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Judge Buchele shared his expertise as an adjunct professor of law and criminal justice at Washburn University School of Law. He was active in the Kansas District Judges Association, Kansas Bar Association and the American Judicature Society.

1930’s

William Forbes “Bill” Caldwell ’35, Topeka, KS, died December 8, 2002, at the age of 91. Mr. Caldwell joined the FBI in 1940 and spent two years as a special agent in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy in 1944 and served during World War II. He was self-employed in the Kansas City area for many years before he retired about 11 years ago.

John Frederick “Fritz” Stoskopf Sr. ’39, Great Bend, KS, died November 12, 2002, at the age of 88. Mr. Stoskopf was a farmer, lawyer, oil producer, real estate agent and owned a travel agency. He was a member of the Kansas Bar Association. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving as the Criminal Investigation Director in China. His military decorations and citations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, American Service Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

1940’s

Charles M. Babb ’48, Austin, TX, died May 9, 2003, at the age of 81. Mr. Babb served in World War II, then went on to law school where he served on the Board of Editors of the Washburn Law Journal. He attended the University of Texas, where he received his Masters of Law and remained in Austin to begin a distinguished legal career lasting over a half century.
Robert "Bob" Corbett '49, Topeka, KS, died May 14, 2003, at the age of 83. Mr. Corbett served in New Guinea with the Army in WW II. He later earned a law degree from Washburn University and was in private practice with his wife in Sabetha. Bob later worked for the Kansas Corporation Commission and owned Corbett-Miller Insurance Agency. Before his retirement, he was the attorney for the Kansas State Board of Health.

The Honorable Kenneth Charles Kimmel ‘50, Wichita, KS, retired District Court Judge died Monday, March 17, 2003, at the age of 80. After Judge Kimmel graduated from law school, he returned to Wichita where he was a claims attorney for USF and G and later joined the insurance agency of Beezley, Outland, and Foote. In 1960 he went into private practice before being appointed to the Juvenile and Probate Judge of Sedgwick County 18th District Court. Kimmel retired from the bench in 1991.

E. Gene McKinney ’52, Topeka, KS, died Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002, at the age of 72. Mr. McKinney practiced law for 48 years up until his death, the last 20 years as a partner with McKinney & McKinney in Topeka. Mr. McKinney was past president and member of the Topeka Bar Association and is listed in Best Lawyers of America. Mr. McKinney was a member, past president and director of the Washburn Alumni Association, and past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Washburn Endowment Association. He also served the Kansas Bar Association as the chairman of the Legal Education and Admissions Committee.

Clyde N. Christey ’56, Topeka, KS, died May 28, 2003, at the age of 73. Mr. Christey was in private practice in Topeka for many years. He was a special motor carrier examiner for the Kansas Corporation Commission. In recent years, he served as special administrative law judge for compensation settlement hearings.

J. Warren Jackman ’59, Tulsa, OK, died November 27, 2002, at the age of 68. Mr. Jackman served in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the Air Force. He headed the litigation section with the firm of Pray, Walker, Jackman, Williams & Marlar, and had recently been elected to the Inns of Court of Oklahoma.

Colonel Walter K. Myers ’60, Fairfax, VA, died May 4, 2003 at the age of 69. Colonel Myers was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Japan. After leaving the Army, he returned to Topeka and graduated from Washburn University School of Law. Colonel Myers served as an assistant Shawnee County attorney until returning to active duty with the Army as an officer in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps in late 1961. He retired from the Army in September 1990. He then served as staff counsel for the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., before retiring in June 1999.

Lawrence D. McDonald ’61, Lake Winnebago, MO, passed away January 14, 2002 at the age of 65. After he graduated from law school, he joined the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps from which he received an honorable discharge as a Captain. He practiced law in the Metro Kansas City area since 1961, and formed his own law firm in 1975.
Lauraine Ida Brooker ’70, Topeka, KS, died May 16, 2003, at the age of 80. Ms. Brooker served as a Naval nurse before pursuing a bachelor of arts degree from The University of Kansas. She taught at the KU School of Nursing, and later graduated from Washburn University School of Law.

John F. Jones II ’72, Wichita, KS, died Sunday May 4, 2003 at the age of 65. Mr. Jones practiced law in Newton for 23 years and was a member of varied legal, criminal and bar associations. He had worked as a field supervisor for Continental Casualty Company in Chicago, as an account executive for R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co. in Chicago and as the assistant district attorney for the 3rd Judicial District of Kansas.

Eric W. Severson ’77, Topeka, KS, died on June 10, 2003 at the age of 52. In 1977 he entered private practice, sharing office space with the firm of Sprague, Miller & Andrews. In 1981 Eric became a partner in the law firm of Irwin, Clutter and Severson, where he worked until 1993 when he became a private consultant in mergers and acquisitions.

John R. Luttjohann ’83, Topeka, KS, died January 16, 2003, at the age of 46. Mr. Luttjohann was a member of the American Association of Certified Public Accountants and the board of directors and former chair of the Tax Section of the Kansas Society of CPA’s. He also was the former director of taxation and director of the Property Valuation Division under Gov. Mike Hayden. He had established his own firm, Luttjohann Law Office, P.A.

Richard Alan Krogh ’87, Lawrence, KS, died May 31, 2003, at the age of 54. Mr. Krogh served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968 to 1969 and earned the rank of captain. He opened a private law practice in 1987 and was a child support enforcement attorney for Kansas State Revenue Service until 2001.