



## John P. Icenogle

December 26, 1948 - April 12, 2024

John Phillip Icenogle, age 75, of Kearney, was called to rest from his fight with cancer on April 12, 2024, at his home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney with Pastor Clint Cozier officiating. Burial will follow at Kearney Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to the First Presbyterian Church. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney will handle arrangements.

John was born December 26, 1948, in Mattoon, Illinois. He was the third son born to Thomas and Elizabeth (Jones) Icenogle. He attended Lincoln Southeast High School before obtaining his undergraduate degree from Columbia University in 1971. He obtained his law degree from Tulane Law School in 1974.

In 1974, John moved to Kearney to begin work as an attorney for the Tye Law Firm. He worked as an attorney for two years before being appointed to the Buffalo County Court bench in 1976. He met his wife, Barbara, in 1977, and they were married a year later. They had three children over the course of their marriage, Elizabeth Margot, Samuel Hogan, and John Dayton. John was appointed to the Buffalo County District Court bench in 1990 where he served our community as a District Judge until his retirement in 2016. He was a past president of the Nebraska County Judges Association, Nebraska District

Judges Association, and he was nominated for Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Loved by many and well respected in the legal community, his family met many individuals that were grateful to him and shared how he changed their lives for the better while serving 40 years as a judge in Buffalo County. He loved golf and could easily spend a day playing 36 holes at a time. He also loved to travel to as many golf courses as he could. John loved his family and always made sure they were taken care of. He loved spending time with his family and friends while golfing, traveling, or preparing elaborate dinners. He leaves, to cherish his memory, a loving wife, Barbara of Kearney; his children, Elizabeth Margot (Matthew) of Kearney, Samuel of Hastings, and John (Mary Rose) of Kearney; two grandchildren, Rollins and John Palmer of Kearney; his brothers, Robert of Springfield, NE and Thomas Edward (Mary) of Littleton, CO.; many nieces and nephews; and a host of beloved family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He asks that you share a cocktail with your loved ones in his memory.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

APR 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
4511 6th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ My thoughts go out to Johns family. John was someone I looked up to and it was he who put me on the path to a better life. He wouldn't just sent me somewhere until after we talked. Even after I became an adult and moved away I still kept in touch with John. No more pain your Honor, rest peacefully!  
Laura Marr Mittlestadt



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**Laura Mittlestadt** - June 28, 2024 at 11:16 AM

MH

“ I first met Judge Icenogle as a teen at Kearney C.C. He was an avid golfer and I was learning to play golf...he was always friendly and approachable, even though we were from different generations. Later, while attending Creighton Univ. for undergrad, he helped put my legal career in motion and encouraged me to consider Tulane Univ. Law School, where I attended. I have been practicing in New Orleans for 35 years and have told the story countless times about how Judge Icenogle's guidance (and letter of recommendation) set my path for a life in New Orleans. Rest in peace Judge.  
Mark Hanna

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**Mark Hanna** - April 27, 2024 at 01:56 PM

GH

“ John was a great Golfer. It was always an adventure going on a golf trip with him. He arranged the courses we played and made sure everyone got to the course in time to practice a bit before teeing off. His presence at the dinner meals was ABSOLUTELY necessary and the meals were fantastic. He will be missed.

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**George Hoagstrom** - April 16, 2024 at 05:42 PM

PK

“ John and I were colleagues over the years as practicing attorneys and county and district judges. He contributed much to Nebraska’s judicial system and especially in pioneering community corrections.

Paul Korslund - April 16, 2024 at 05:36 PM

SO

“ I have such fond memories of John at Lincoln Southeast. His fine character shone brightly even as a young man. Sarah Olson

sarah olson - April 16, 2024 at 08:41 AM

SG

“ LSE 67: Thanks for being a kind soul to all. Rest in peace John! Sue Gabriel



Sue Gabriel - April 15, 2024 at 09:17 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John P. Icenogle.



April 15, 2024 at 07:51 PM

TH

“ I met John in his capacity as a Rules Official for the Nebraska Golf Association where we worked together. Although we only worked for a hand full of events I came to know and respect him as a fine individual. My sincere condolences to his family and those who knew him well..

Terry Hexum - April 15, 2024 at 03:04 PM

JL

“ Jim and Mary Livingston planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John P. Icenogle.

Jim and Mary Livingston - April 15, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JL

“ Jim and Mary Livingston purchased the Serene R  
etreat for the family of John P. Icenogle.



Jim and Mary Livingston - April 15, 2024 at 02:51 PM

NK

“ I tried my first solo jury trial in Judge Icenogle's court in 1999. He and defense counsel were so gracious as I bumbled through. He had a wonderful judicial temperament, and his sense of humor was infectious. My sincere condolences. Nora Kane, Omaha

Nora Kane - April 15, 2024 at 01:42 PM

JH

“ John was not only an outstanding Judge, but a kind and caring person. He will be missed. John V Hendry, Chief Justice, Nebraska Supreme Court,retired.

John V Hendry - April 15, 2024 at 11:48 AM

AW

“ So sorry to hear about John's death. It was a pleasure to practice in front of him. He was a credit to the legal community and will be sorely missed. Hon. Arthur S. Wetzel

Arthur S Wetzel - April 15, 2024 at 11:33 AM

DB

“ My sympathies for your loss. John was an excellent judge, colleague and friend. I respected him professionally and most importantly as a person who cared for others. His laugh was infectious, his intellect clear and his compassion for life (as long as golf was part of it) was boundless. Dan Beckwith

Dan Beckwith - April 15, 2024 at 10:58 AM

TK

“ I went to high school with John but afterwards saw him only at class reunions (I have lived in Ohio for the past 30 years). There are not many people I remember from high school but John was one of them because of his infectious love of life and quick wit. Although I lost track of him in the intervening years, I have to believe that he made the world a better place. I was saddened to hear of his death.

Timothy J Kincaid - April 15, 2024 at 10:43 AM

LG

“ *Barb-our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We have many good memories of our fun times with you two. Many laughable memories of our "card" sessions. Take care and God bless. Linda and Phil Gasseling*

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**Linda Gasseling** - April 14, 2024 at 08:07 PM

LG

“ *Love, Kristi Winslow and The Glasgow's purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John P. Icenogle.*



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**Love, Kristi Winslow and The Glasgow's** - April 14, 2024 at 02:12 PM

PC

“ *I discovered John's death by an email from a high school classmate. I was caught off guard by his death as I was of the death of my husband Jim Carrier when he was 67. Both sudden deaths to me. John was a good friend of both Jim and me and served as our best man when we got married in 1983. Jim would have many memories to share if he could. I am in Washington DC for We the People Nationals and won't be back until the 19th. Barb, I am so sorry I cannot be there to support you, but my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Pam Carrier** - April 14, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John P. Icenogle.*



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April 14, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ *Bette, Matthew, Megan, Michael purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John P. Icenogle.*



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**Bette, Matthew, Megan, Michael** - April 13, 2024 at 11:25 PM



“ *Bette, Matthew, Megan, Michael planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John P. Icenogle.*

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**Bette, Matthew, Megan, Michael** - April 13, 2024 at 11:25 PM



“ *Anthony and Christin Green purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John P. Icenogle.*



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**Anthony and Christin Green** - April 13, 2024 at 01:57 PM

-C

“ - Kearney Country Club purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of John P. Icenogle.



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- Kearney Country Club - April 13, 2024 at 12:34 PM

GR

“ John was a credit to the bench of County and District Court. He was  
leader who helped many , sharing the wisdom of his vast judicial  
experience .  
His service to the Kearney area and the state of Nebraska will be  
missed and he will be remembered for his willingness to help other .  
Many share in your sorrow for his loss.  
Gary B Randall, District Court Judge, Retired

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Gary Randall - April 13, 2024 at 12:26 PM

DD

Judge Icenogle contributed much to the betterment of the Nebraska  
judiciary and the welfare of our state. Much gratitude for his leadership.  
He had a great sense of humor. I still remember him saying a novel  
Italian pronunciation of his last name “Ich-a-NO-gley” causing much  
laughter at our Judicial education meeting. My deep condolences to his  
family, especially son John and spouse Mary Rose and children.

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Debora Denny - April 15, 2024 at 10:49 AM

TS

“ Barb and Family, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. 🙏

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Todd Sawicki - April 13, 2024 at 10:54 AM

JG

*- I join in Judge Randall's comments. John was an excellent judge, a true leader, and an even better human being. He always took the law seriously, but he never took himself too seriously - a man with a fabulous sense of humor.*

*I served with John on the initial Judicial Branch Education committee .. which took judicial education into the 21st century for all judges (county, juvenile, & district). John's vast experience, innovative thoughts, and common sense benefitted the entire state of Nebraska for decades.*

*John will be missed, but he left a huge imprint on Nebraska's judiciary. To Barb and family, please accept my, and many judges', condolences.*

*John M Gerrard, US Senior District Court Judge*

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**John M Gerrard** - April 15, 2024 at 12:02 PM



*My deepest sympathy Barb. I know how hard John's illness has been but know you will continue to be in my prayers as you move forward without the love of your life. Thank you for being the wonderful neighbor you are!*

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**Bev Driscoll** - April 15, 2024 at 04:34 PM

KD

*I was Judge Icenogle Administrative Assistant in Buffalo County District court for about 13 years. I absolutely loved working with the judge. He was kind, patient, and warm. I will cherish many memories I have of the judge talking about his cooking and the husker football games. Many mornings before the day started we would talk about the meals he made for supper or over the weekends. He loved to cook. He was one of a kind. It was a privilege to be able to know him and work side-by-side with him. I will always know him and call him "Judge".*

*Many prayers for the Icenogle family.  
Kathy Davenport*

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**Kathy Davenport** - April 15, 2024 at 04:49 PM

PS

*A high school friend at LSE I will remember John as smart, witty and kind. A friend to all. Sending my sympathy to the Icenogle family.*

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**Pamela Sorrell** - April 15, 2024 at 10:56 PM

BL

*So sorry to hear of John's death. He was a good friend and colleague for over 40 years and I will savor the memories. Bert Leffler*

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**B.Bert Leffler** - April 18, 2024 at 04:57 PM