

The Life of Franklin Denholm

Franklin Edvard Denholm, 92, of Brookings, SD, fell asleep on April 7, 2016 at The Neighborhoods at Brookview, Brookings, SD. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00am Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Brookings, SD. Visitation will be from 4:00pm to 6:30pm with a 6:30pm Liturgical Wake Service Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Rude's Funeral Home, Brookings, SD. Rude's Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Franklin Edvard Denholm, a.k.a. Frank E. Denholm, was born on November 29, 1923, the fifth child of nine children to John J. and Laura Anna (Mathias) Denholm on the homestead of his father in Scotland Township in western Day County, South Dakota.

Frank grew up on the family farm and like his brothers and sisters traveled by horse or walked five miles to and from a country school. After receiving his education he farmed extensively, owned and operated an Interstate truck transport business and became well known as an auctioneer. He was united in marriage to Mildred T. Niehaus on June 12, 1950, in Webster, SD. She was his alter-ego, ever at his side in the journey of life. Later in that same year he



was elected Day County Sheriff. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science plus academic credit hours sufficient for majors in economics, history, and speech (forensics). He won first place in Men's Oratory in SD Intercollegiate Forensics and in Men's Original Oratory in National Competition at Redlands University in California while a student at SDSU. He was president of Blue Key National Honors Society (SDSU Chapter), named in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Government, Personalities in the West and in the Mid-West, and in Men of Achievement.

He then pursued a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota which was interrupted by his appointment as a Special Agent of the FBI by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., and there he accepted an appointment as an FBI Agent.

In constant travel status he worked criminal and national security matters from Alcatraz to Washington, D.C. including crimes on the high seas. After reluctantly resigning as an FBI Agent he returned to the University of South Dakota to finish his law degree.

He returned to South Dakota where he earned and received an LLB degree converted to a Jurist Doctorate degree of law.

After his admittance to the practice of law by the SD Supreme Court in 1962, he opened offices at Brookings and Volga, SD.

He was also admitted and authorized to practice law in Federal District Court (Southern Division); U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, St. Louis, MO;; the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C.; the Supreme Court of the United States of America; U.S. Military Courts; Tax Courts of the United States and a member of the International Legal Fraternity of PHI KAPPA DELTA. Frank accomplished a successful practice for more than 52 years, interrupted only by being twice elected to the U.S. Congress in 1970 and re-elected in 1972.

Frank was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish, the American Bar Assoc., the American Trial Lawyers Assoc.; the South Dakota Bar Assoc.; South Dakota Trial Lawyers Assoc.; South Dakota Peace Officers Assoc.; Isaac Walton League; Kiwanis member and past president; Trustee of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (BPOE); 4-H Club as leader and participant; active in Boy Scouts of America and past district chairman of Boy Scouts of America; member, director and past president of the Brookings Country Club.

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He was awarded many certificates including a Certificate of Appreciation by the leadership in the U.S. Congress for outstanding service in the 91st Session of the United States Congress.

Frank authored published orations and was a member of the International Speakers Platform. He received a Certificate of Award by American Jurisprudence for Excellence in the drafting of Wills by the Joint Publishers of Associated Reports of Bancroft - Whitney (Law Book Publishers).

He was also rewarded for his efforts and time in assisting leadership when the leadership supported the enactment of existing Public Law sponsored and co-sponsored by Frank including The Rural Telephone Act of 1971;

The Rural Development Act of 1972; the re-instatement of the Rural Electrification Act in 1973 identified as the "Denholm Bill" after President Nixon terminated the REA of the 1930's by an Executive Order; an Amendment to the U.S Constitution granting 18 year old citizens the right to vote; and the Rural Water Act of 1974, all landmark national legislation (now public law) and operative in the public interest for rural American farms and homes, cabins, resort and recreation areas and made available to all communities of a population of 50,000 people, or less, across America.

When the Capitol Building was bombed he was appointed to a Special Committee to Secure the Capitol Building of the USA.

Frank is survived by two sisters, Marietta Morehouse of Austin, TX, Annetta Smith of Arlington, TX; sisters-in-law, Myrna Denholm of Denver, CO, Frances Denholm of Minneapolis, MN, and more than 120 nieces and nephews of the extended family plus relatives in Australia, and in Denholm, Scotland, and a multitude of friends in the FBI and the U.S. Congress from sea to sea.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Mildred (died on August 14, 2014), one infant sister, Agnes, one sister, Jean Golden, brothers, J. Millard, J. Leonard, Robert L., and Burdette E.

Brookings was Frank's home for more than 60 years. He liked the SDSU motto, "You can go anywhere from here". He did - - the equivalent of three times around the world and returned to live, design and develop with Mildie (as fondly called by Frank) the Americana Addition to the City of Brookings, where they built their home at 1500 Franklin Avenue, overlooking the golf course of Brookings and less than ten minutes from the campus of his alma mater.

Frank often laughed at himself - - "Came as a dumb, young farm kid to SDSU and returned to become, not the biggest or brightest, but likely the oldest farmer in town pending the full development of the Americana Addition."

He also said, "Faith, family, friends and a loving wife were the bed rock to progress day by day. In the stillness of time, he left love, honor and respect to his "Lil" Mildie, now in her heavenly home, and to family and friends far and near, in the FBI and the U.S. Congress from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and all that helped him in the trials of an earthly presents in Beautiful America he left endless gratitude. Now in his humble way may he be heard by the Judge of Judges to say, "Forgive me if I have hurt or offended another along the way, Dear Lord, I pray."