



Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler

December 31, 1939 - March 13, 2023

Harvey Joel Bressler, Judge H.J. Bressler, "Joe", passed away unexpectedly due to complications from pneumonia in Naples, FL on March 13, 2023. He was 83. Though the family is both devastated and shocked by his death, they are comforted in knowing that he was surrounded by family and love at the time of his passing. Born December 31, 1939 in Baltimore, MD, to the late Samuel Bressler and Rose Cohen, Joe was the oldest of two children. He is survived by his brother, Lee Bressler. He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth "Ann" Bressler. Joe will be lovingly remembered by his 3 children Scott Bressler (Sunnie Dawn) of Hamilton, Erika Davis (Rob) of Carthage, N.C., and Jason Bressler (Melissa) of Raleigh, N.C. Joe is also survived by his five grandsons Ben Bressler (Lindsey), Owen Bressler, Preston Bressler, Sawyer Zinn, and Collin Bressler, as well as his great granddaughter, Madeline, and several nieces and nephews. In May of 2022, Joe met, fell in love again, and ultimately remarried to Darlene Miller, of Fairfield, OH. Their relationship was a gift and the family is comforted in knowing that he died with a full, happy heart having found love again. Words cannot summarize the life of Joe and the impact that he had on so many both professionally and personally in the Hamilton area. His love and passion for his profession as a lawyer and as a judge have created a legacy and a footprint that will remain forever. As a judge, his mantra was that he always wanted to leave the bench in a better place than when he started, and there is no doubt that he did. He had a genuine love for the law and brought with it a

balance of respect for the law along with compassion for those who stood before him. Outside all of his accomplishments within the courtroom, Joe was faithfully devoted to his family and friends. Some would describe Joe as loyal to a fault. If you were part of his life, you knew that he would be there for you however you needed him. The number of people that he touched throughout the course of his life simply cannot be counted. In addition to spending time with family, Joe enjoyed the time he spent with close friends playing golf, tailgating at Miami football games, and working out at the Hamilton YMCA. Joe earned everything he had, and worked hard to give his family the best life possible. And he did. He will be missed dearly. Visitation will be held on Monday, March 20, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m at The Presbyterian Church, 23 South Front Street, Hamilton, OH 45011. A celebration of life and funeral service will be held for Joe at The Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Burial to follow with full military honors in Rose Hill Burial Park. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations in memory of Joe be sent to The Presbyterian Church, 23 South Front Street, Hamilton, OH 45011 or AMVETS Post 1983, 914 Ross Ave, Hamilton, OH 45013. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Presbyterian Church
23 S. Front Street
Hamilton, OH 45013

Service

MAR 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

The Presbyterian Church
23 S. Front Street
Hamilton, OH 45013

Interment

MAR 21. 11:15 AM (ET)

Rose Hill Burial Park
2421 Princeton Road
Hamilton, OH 45011

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I came to know Joe when we served as CommonPleas Judges. He always had a ready smile and an upbeat personality. Just as importantly, he personified an astute, and decent judge. When I became an appellate judge in the Second District, I drew upon his experience and wisdom. I fondly remember seeing him a year ago as he spoke so warmly of his grandchildren. Rest in peace, Joe.

Judge Mary E .Donovan, retired - March 21, 2023 at 08:56 AM

MW

“ I had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Bressler as a young lawyer when he was on the Common Pleas bench and when he was on the Court of Appeals. Later, I spent many hours with him as he acted as Mediator on some very difficult cases. He was always professional, fair, prepared and empathetic. When solicited, he would give advice. And when he did, it was always good. I found him to be a very honorable man who obviously loved his family, friends and the law (and in that order of importance). I admired him greatly and will miss him. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Michael Weisensel, Esq.

Michael Weisensel - March 20, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.



March 20, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.*



March 19, 2023 at 04:21 PM



“ *I had the privilege of serving with Judge Bressler on the Boar of the Ohio Association of Municipal and County Court Judges. I found him to be a very intelligent who also displayed humility. I can't remember one unpleasant encounter with Judge Bressler and many happy ones. My condolences to his family and loved ones.*
Judge James L. Kimbler (Retired)

Judge James L. Kimbler (Retired) - March 19, 2023 at 03:43 PM

WR

“ I worked with Joe for approximately 12 years at Holbrock, Jonson, Bressler & Houser. I was his secretary for several years. He took his job very seriously; and I could not have asked for a better person to work with. I remember Scott, and Erika during my time knowing Joe. Jason must have been the youngest. Joe had a keen eye for fashion and was very secure in his masculinity. He was wearing pink dress shirts before other men dared to wear one. He was very devoted to the rule of law; and I was so proud of him as Judge of the Butler County Common Pleas Court and the Appellate Court after his career at the law firm.

My sincere sympathy is extended to the family during this very difficult time. May God grant you strength and comfort as you first strive to carry on without Joe. His death was a shock to me. I remember Joe always ran and kept in great physical shape. We have definitely lost an extremely gifted attorney/judge and a great family man.

Wanda Jean Roach - March 19, 2023 at 03:21 PM

DD

“ I met Joe over 30 years ago as a member of the Ohio Municipal County Judges Association. Both of us served in leadership for the organization, and when Joe served as President, I was Vice President. His calm and steady leadership was a model to follow. He had a great sense of humor, and gave me great advice on more than one occasion. He will be missed by many. My sympathy to his family. God Bless you, Joe.

Denise Ann Dartt
Retired, Toledo Municipal Court and Lucas County Common Pleas Court

Denise Dartt - March 19, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.*



March 18, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *I was a Municipal Court Judge for 32 years in Lima and got to know Joe through the Judges' Association early in my career. Joe prodded me to become a member of the Board when he was our President and several years later he honored me by attending my inauguration as President of the OMCJA. I greatly admired him as a great Judge and as a greater human being. I am saddened to learn of his passing but I know he leaves a great legacy that his family will always remember and cherish. RIP Judge Joe! Bill Lauber*

Bill Lauber - March 17, 2023 at 09:33 PM



“ *The Common Pleas Court Judges purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.*



The Common Pleas Court Judges - March 17, 2023 at 01:52 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.*



March 16, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Joe 40+ years ago and I am fortunate to have called him my friend. As the previous Director of Victim Advocacy through the Butler County Sheriff's Office I also was privileged to have worked on several occasions in Judge Bressler's courtroom where he ruled with both power and compassion. Joe was larger than life and I'm so blessed to have known him both personally & professionally. RIP Your Honor. Gone but never forgotten...*

Cynthia S. Brown - March 16, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *I was so inspired by "Uncle Joe" when I was a child that I decided at age 5 to become an attorney, just like him. He then helped me get a job as a probation officer with the Butler Co. Juvenile Court. When I questioned whether the commute from Oxford (where I was living) to Chase Law School in Kentucky was worth it, he took the time to help me make the right decision. Always an inspiration.*

Dave Lackey - March 16, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.



March 16, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.



March 16, 2023 at 10:11 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Harvey Joel "Joe" Bressler.



March 16, 2023 at 09:53 AM

ME

“ To Scott and the Bressler families I am saddened to hear of your loss. I spent many an afternoon back in the day representing my company in Area III court with Judge Bressler presiding. I remember his fairness and professionalism in the court room and admired this in him. I remember I once sat the whole day and when all the cases were called he called me to the bench and said we don't have a case with you today. They had failed to notify us and he promised that they would make me the first case if he saw me in his next court and he did just that. I had the upmost respect for him from that day forward. May you find comfort in each other as you come together to celebrate his life. God bless all of you.

Mark Couto - Bobcat Enterprises - March 16, 2023 at 07:46 AM



“ There are no words to describe what a wonderful, kind, great and ethical man HJ was. I've admired him since I was 15 and began working as a runner for Judge Spillane. That admiration and respect never stopped. We will miss your huge smile and ability to fairly mediate our cases at Rittgers Rittgers and Nakajima!! Much love to his family!!

Suzie Armbruster - March 15, 2023 at 10:47 PM

AE

“ In 1978 I was an Intern in the Hamilton Municipal Court under the supervision of Atty Gerry Pater, the City Prosecutor. On my first day in court as Gerry was doing the docket he suddenly looked at me and said “you take the next one”. It was a Driving Under Suspension”. Needless to say I lost my first case but it was to Joe Bressler. I was thrilled to be in his presence and trying a case against The Man. For the past forty five years I have been blessed to have experienced HT Bressler. Attorney, Judge and a great and Wonderful Person.

I recently, during the final argument in a Murder Trial I looked at the Gallery and there was the Judge. When I finished and while I was returning to counsel table. We made eye contact and I got a wink and that little smile.

I Will Miss My Hero.

With my deepest regret and sincere sympathy.

Frank J Schiavone III ESQ

Atty Frank J Schiavone III Esq - March 15, 2023 at 09:27 PM

TW

“ There are not enough words to express the impact that Joe had on my life. I started working for him when I was 21. My loyalty to him and his loyalty to me never waivered. We had a long working relationship (30 years) but we had an even longer friendship. When Dallas and I married, he performed the ceremony. My heart is broken that this brilliant man is no longer here for me to pick up the phone and call just for a chat. His last words to me were, "love 'ya kid," as they always were when we hung up the phone. My heart goes out to Darlene, Scott, Erika, Jason and the entire Bressler family. He loved his family so much. I will miss you so very much. R.I.P., Your Honor.

Tammy (Johnson) Winkler and
Dallas Winkler

Tammy Johnson Winkler - March 15, 2023 at 07:57 PM

RT

“ I had the privilege of working in Joe’s Area III court on Friday mornings in summer 1987. I was a young green inexperienced in-over-his-head prosecutor. Joe, nonetheless, treated me with the greatest amount of kindness and professional respect. And when I departed later that summer for a new job in Washington, DC, he personally called me in to his chambers and, grinning ear to ear, told me how happy he was for me and wished me all the best. Joe Bressler was an absolute class act.

Raymond Thomas - March 15, 2023 at 07:30 PM

KK

“ I worked with Joe at Holbrook & Jonson. He was kind, compassionate, smart, funny, ethical, and such a good and decent man. I can’t say enough how much he’ll be missed. He was, hands down, such a respected lawyer, judge, and all around class act.

Kim Kirsch - March 15, 2023 at 07:26 PM

BE

I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Judge Bressler's very untimely passing. He was a fantastic judge, appellate judge and an unparalleled mediator. He was the consummate professional. He was always prepared and knew the case as well or better than the attorneys. Ethical, considerate, dedicated, professional, my love and respect for the man knows no bounds. My deepest sympathies to his family and new bride. Your loss is shared by many.

Bruce D Knabe, Esq. - March 16, 2023 at 03:17 PM