

BRUCE COYLE HUFFMAN

BORN JULY 30, 1925

DIED JANUARY 18, 2013

Known for his judicial temperament, his golf swing and his dry sense of humor, Bruce Huffman served the Ohio Judiciary for more than 20 years. Bruce Huffman grew up in Ashland, Ohio with parents Coyle Huffman and Wanda Eckelberger. Bruce later settled in Clyde, the hometown of his sweetheart Madeline June Scheerer.

Bruce attended Ashland High School. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1943 at the age of 17, entering the Navy's V-12 Program. The V-12 Program enrolled cadets into colleges and universities to permit them to earn bachelor degrees. Bruce took classes at Oberlin College and at Purdue University. He was commissioned after completing the V-12 Program. As part of his military service, Bruce trained for the invasion of Japan. Although the invasion never happened, Bruce did serve in Japan as part of the occupation force.

Bruce returned to the States and entered law school at The Ohio State University. Like his father before him, Bruce received his JD degree. He was licensed to practice law in Ohio on March 29, 1950.

Lieutenant Huffman was recalled to active duty in 1951 for the Korean conflict. Bruce was stationed at Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida.

After his second stint, Bruce returned to Clyde and opened a law practice with Clarence Homan. Bruce was Clyde's legal advisor from 1954 to 1967 and a county court judge in Clyde from 1966 to 1970. Bruce was appointed to the Common Pleas Bench in Sandusky County in 1970. After 2 successful elections, Bruce retired from the Sandusky County bench in 1985.

As Lucas County lawyers know, retirement from the Sandusky County bench did not end his judicial career. Bruce served as a visiting judge by assignment from the Supreme Court in various northwest Ohio counties for many years. He was a fixture in the Lucas County Common Pleas Court for many of those years. Bruce was known for his pragmatic legal mind and his anecdotal stories. Bruce disarmed many a conflict with a funny story or joke, allowing him to then fashion a resolution among the disputing parties. Bruce was a mentor to many, including Judge J. Ronald Bowman, who marveled at Bruce's ability to solve the most difficult problems.

Bruce officially retired as a visiting judge and wintered in New Smyrna Beach, Florida where he was known simply as "Judge." Bruce passed away on January 18, 2013 at the age of 87. Bruce was preceded in death by his beloved June, his bride of 64 years, by his grandson Ian and by his son-in-law Barrett Nefores. Bruce is survived by his son, John, and his daughter, Patricia Sue Nefores and her two children, Jason and Nikolas, his brother John and his sister Jean.