

JOSEPH L. CZERNIAKOWSKI

BORN MARCH 2, 1928

DIED MARCH 20, 2013

He was a Democratic councilman and a proud member of Toledo's Polish community, practicing in the areas of probate, real estate and tax law. Joseph Czerniakowski was born in Toledo on March 2, 1928 to Stanley Czerniakowski and Sophie Landowski. Joe started high school at Central Catholic, but graduated from St. Bonaventure School in Wisconsin. He attended the University of Toledo, but he received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington. Joe also obtained his law degree from Georgetown in 1953. Joe was admitted to practice law in Ohio on March 18, 1954.

Joe entered the US Army in 1954 and was assigned to the Judge Advocate Division in Heidelberg, Germany. After his honorable discharge, Joe was employed by the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. In January, 1959, Joe was appointed as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General.

Joe was elected to city council in 1959, one of 5 Democrats in the election. Joe did not survive the Republican purge of city council in 1961. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1962. Joe was also a former 14th Ward Democratic chairman.

Joe was also a Judge Advocate for the Catholic War Veterans at the Logsdon-Walla Post 639 in Toledo and at the state level. He was the National Director for the Union of Poles in America for more than 20 years and chaired the Children's Christmas Party for 30 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Przbylski Post 642. In addition to all of these activities, Joe found spare time to bowl and to play golf.

Joe practiced with Mike Errington for nearly 40 years. Mike described Joe as the definition of integrity, evidenced by the generations of family members that Joe represented over the years. Mike said that Joe started with grandparents, then moved on to the parents and ultimately represented the grandchildren during his legal career.

Joe passed on March 20, 2013 in Naples, Florida. Joe was preceded in death by his first wife, Florence, and by his second wife, Alma. His brother Albin "Beany" Czerniakowski also passed before Joe. Joe is survived by his brother Raymond, sisters Evelyn Walsh and Joan Sochacki, nieces and nephews and many family friends.