



## Judge Mark A. Karl

July 5, 1946 - May 28, 2022

Judge Mark A. Karl, age 75 of Moundsville, WV died Saturday, May 28, 2022 in Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Glen Dale, WV.

He was born July 5, 1946 in Sistersville, WV the son of the late Kenneth Thomas and Mabel Hamilton Karl.

Mark graduated from Sistersville High School in 1964, where he was the class Valedictorian and was a member of the State Championship golf team.

While attending Sistersville High School, Mark caddied on two separate occasions for professional Golf Hall of Famer, Sam Snead, during West Virginia PGA tournaments held at the Sistersville County Club.

Mark served his country as a Captain in the United States Army.

He attended WVU on a Golf Scholarship until his Graduation in 1968, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Following College graduation, he then attended WVU College of Law, where he graduated in 1971.

In 1971 he was admitted to practice law in both Federal and State Courts. In 1972, at the age of 26, he was elected as Marshall County Prosecuting Attorney, having been the youngest elected prosecuting attorney in the United States; he served as Marshall County Mental Hygiene Commission; Administrative Law Judge for Unemployment Compensation Commission; and as Chief Public Defender for 2nd Judicial Circuit of WV.

In November of 1992 Judge Mark was elected Circuit Judge for the 2nd Judicial Circuit for the State of WV; taking office on January 1, 1993; was re-elected in 2000, and again in 2008. He retired from the Bench in 2015.

He was a 40 year long-time member of the Moundsville Country Club; and a 40 year season ticket holder of WVU Football.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 30 years, Shirelle Knight Karl; a brother, Nicholas Hamilton Karl of Sistersville; two brothers-in-law, Craig (Kathleen) Knight of Valley Grove, WV and Chuck (Phyllis) Knight of Rochester, MN; and nieces and nephews, Alexandria and Kim Knight, and Zachary, Drew and Christian Knight.

Private services and interment will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements entrusted to Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, Moundsville.

# Cemetery Details

**Grisell Crematory**

Moundsville, WV

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *He was admired and respected.  
Everyone benefited from being around him.*  
*Dan Doak*

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**Dan Doak** - June 07, 2022 at 11:54 AM

JC

“ *Judge Karl was one of the first Judges I practiced in front of. He had a great sense of humor off the bench which I found helpful being a new attorney. He also possessed a level demeanor-he never yelled or was angry without cause, qualities I copied when I took the bench later in my career. Thank you Judge Karl, rest in peace.*

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**Judge Kurt Hall, 26th Circuit** - June 07, 2022 at 09:40 AM

JC

*He also married my wife and I on my lunch break when I was working for the Public Defender Office.*

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**Judge Kurt Hall, 26th Circuit** - June 07, 2022 at 09:42 AM

DN

*Judge Karl was a dear friend of mine for nearly 60 years. He will be missed by all who knew him. RIP Mark*

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**Diann Stout Newgren** - June 10, 2022 at 09:17 PM

TE

“ *Shirelle  
I will keep you in my thoughts.*

*Terri Moore*

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**Terri** - June 05, 2022 at 07:03 AM

DR

“ Judge Karl was a great man, friend and Judge. He always treated me with respect and kindness and would offer to help me anytime I was in his court, ran into on the street or spoke with him at dinner at the Country Club. I truly respected him as first the Prosecutor and then The Judge. He always called me Robbie throughout my law enforcement career. He was always there to offer his knowledge, his incite or his shoulder.

*God Bless you Judge and your family*

*David Robinson*

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**David Robinson** - June 04, 2022 at 09:25 AM

ED

“ Played golf with Mark many times in Sistersville! Strong competitor and great guy!

*Good family and was respected by all!*

*Ed Johnston*

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**Ed** - June 03, 2022 at 07:12 AM

JM

“ Dear Shirelle, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your husband, Judge Karl. My heart is heavy for you as you grieve his loss. May you find comfort in the memories you shared. Peace and hugs to you.

*Jane Mahlke*

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**Jane Mahlke** - June 03, 2022 at 01:29 AM

BL

“ A Good Judge and a Friend since Caddie Days at Sistersville Country Club. Rest In Peace

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**Bill Lemon** - June 02, 2022 at 05:18 PM

LM

“ *May you Rest in Peace, Judge Karl. I will never forget so many of your stories - you made me laugh so often. To Shirelle and Nick, I hope you know how many lives he touched. May he Rest in Peace.*

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**Lori Mason** - June 02, 2022 at 02:43 PM

MM

“ *I am very sorry to hear of Judge Karl's passing. It was an honor to have practiced before him. Judge Karl was an outstanding jurist possessing a keen mind; knowledge and command of the law; courtroom experience coming from his days as a prosecuting attorney; a calm, controlled judicial temperament, and empathy for the people who came before him. He was an exemplary public servant and human being. My condolences to his family. Mike McGuane*

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**Michael McGuane** - June 02, 2022 at 12:42 PM

JP

“ *so sorry to learn of his death. prayers that the good memories bring you comfort although this life journey is always too brief. Jim pickett*

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**Jimmy F Pickett** - June 02, 2022 at 11:44 AM

CC

“ *Chuck, Phyllis, Drew, Kim and Christian purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Judge Mark A. Karl.*



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**Chuck, Phyllis, Drew, Kim and Christian** - June 02, 2022 at 11:40 AM

JL

“I am truly grateful and humbled to have been fortunate enough to work for Judge Karl for over 20 years. He, along with Judge Madden, afforded me the chance to get my start in the Criminal Justice profession and he offered guidance, wisdom, and trust in the abilities to do my job to the best of my abilities. More importantly, over that time, I was proud to have called him my friend. My sincere condolences to his wife Shirelle and his entire family.”

*John Lantz, Professor  
Academic Division Chair and Program Director of Criminal Justice  
West Virginia Northern Community College*

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**John Lantz** - June 02, 2022 at 07:32 AM

BF

“I greatly enjoyed practicing in front of Judge Karl when I was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Marshall County. I learned from him and enjoyed his stories. He was very personable and very interesting. On behalf of his former office, my respect and condolences to his wife and family.

*Brett Ferro, Chief Public Defender*

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**Brett Ferro** - June 01, 2022 at 11:20 PM

KA

*Prayers for the family*

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**Karen** - June 02, 2022 at 02:58 AM

SR

“My friend, Mark Karl will be missed.”

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**Sue Riffle** - June 01, 2022 at 07:09 PM

BF

“ Judge Karl was a wonderful attorney, Judge and man who deeply cared for his wife, Shirelle, his community, country and members of the legal profession. He had an unbelievable memory which was probably photographic. Judge Karl also had a great sense of humor and disposition. One of his greatest traits was the respect he showed to everyone who appeared before him including persons who came from all walks of life. May you rest in peace Judge..  
Bobby Fitzsimmons

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**Bobby Fitzsimmons** - June 01, 2022 at 04:35 PM

LF

“ There was no finer gentleman than Mark Karl. I am fortunate to have known him, and the community was fortunate to have his many years of faithful service. To his wife, his closest friends and family, we at the Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney's Office wish you peace and comfort at this time.

Luke Furbee  
Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney

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**Luke Furbee** - June 01, 2022 at 03:00 PM

GN

*In thirty four years of practicing law I can state that I had more respect for Judge Karl than any of the other judges I appeared before over the years. Obviously very intelligent, very patient with the litigants and attorneys appearing before him , quick to understand the issues presented and deal with them accordingly. Never saw him be condescending to anyone before him. Always felt comfortable that he would render an appropriate decision*

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**Greg NULL** - June 01, 2022 at 03:23 PM

TH

“ Judge Karl was a colleague and mentor to me in the profession. I am saddened by his passing. He always treated me with the utmost courtesy and respect and it was a sincere pleasure to appear before him in court. I learned much from him. I respect and value his service to the Second Judicial Circuit and the State of West Virginia. I found him to be a remarkable lawyer, judge and gentleman. On behalf of myself and my office, I express my sincere condolences to his wife and family. Rest in Peace, Your Honor.

*Timothy E. Haught  
Wetzel County Prosecuting Attorney*

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**Timothy E. Haught** - June 01, 2022 at 02:12 PM