



Garold Heslinga

November 30, 1923 - October 25, 2022

Garold Franklin Heslinga, 98, of Oskaloosa, passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at the Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa.

Garold was the eldest of four children born to Franklin R. and Anna R. (Van Heukelom) Heslinga and was born on November 30, 1923, in Oskaloosa. He was a 1941 graduate of Oskaloosa High School and then studied pre-law at William Penn College in Oskaloosa for one year. The following summer, Garold traveled to Washington, DC, to work as an FBI file clerk. He then enrolled in George Washington University, resuming his pre-law studies during the school year. After enlisting in the U.S. Army on March 2, 1943, Garold spent the first nine months of his service in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Michigan State College and studied the Italian language and culture. On August 27, 1944, he shipped out for the Asiatic/Pacific Theatre, where he served for over 17 months. He was part of the New Guinea, Leyte, and Mindanao PI campaigns and was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars. Upon his discharge, Garold enrolled in Drake University Law School and graduated in 1948. He practiced general law in Oskaloosa for 67 years, retiring in 2015. From 1950 – 1956, Garold served as the Mahaska County Attorney. Garold was a member of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers (limited to 275 members), the American Association for Justice, the Iowa Association for Justice, the American Bar Association for over 55 years, the Iowa Bar Association, and the Mahaska County Bar

Association. He was also a member of the Board of Governors, Iowa State Bar Association from 1960 – 1966, and the Supreme Court Advisory Committee as to Rules from 1980-1988. Garold generously served his community through the years, presiding as the Oskaloosa Industrial Park Commission chairman and the Oskaloosa Community Chest. He served as president of the Oskaloosa Jaycees. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Oskaloosa Rotary Club and the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the Community Service award in 1987. The Oskaloosa Community Y. Garold was on the Board of Directors at William Penn University and received their Distinguished Service Award. He was a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder and Sunday school teacher.

Garold married Mary L. Coulon on June 19, 1970, in Oskaloosa. What a full life! Garold actively enjoyed relationships with and service to his family, country, community, legal profession, and, most importantly, God. Through the years, Garold had many hobbies, including woodworking, glassworking, metalworking, and landscaping. He also took pride in creating a homemade family Christmas card for the last 48 years. These pastimes allowed him to express his creativity and also gave him a means of sharing a part of himself with his loved ones. Garold was blessed with good health, allowing him and Mary to enjoy many years of extensive travel; the Netherlands and western excursions were two of their favorites. These diversions were entertaining for Garold, but his pleasure in life was his family and going to work each day. The fellowship he had with his partners and fellow lawyers were relationships he cherished, and providing wise and prudent counsel for over 67 years was the work that gave his life true purpose.

Garold is survived by his wife, Mary of Oskaloosa; his children and their spouses: Jane and Tim Fessler of West Des Moines, Mark Heslinga of Salem, Oregon, Kim and Jack Scieszinski of Albia, Vicki and Ron Van Der Pol of Oskaloosa, and Kathy Heslinga of Avon, Colorado; seven grandsons and their wives, one granddaughter, 13 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-

granddaughters. He is also survived by his sister, JoAnn, her family, and the families of his deceased brothers, Harold and John.

Garold was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Harold and John, and a son, Tim Heslinga.

Funeral Services for Garold will be held at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at the First Presbyterian Church, with Reverend Robert S. Elgin and Pastor Amy McGriff and officiating. The Iowa National Guard Honor Guard will present military honors. Cremation will follow the service, and private burial will be in Forest Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 2 p.m., Tuesday, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 5-7 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Mahaska Health Foundation to the Hospice Serenity House or the Welcome Home Soldier Memorial near Albia.

Watch Garold's service live or later by logging on to the First Presbyterian Church's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianOskaloosa>

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

The family will greet visitors from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Funeral Service

NOV 2. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
405 High Ave. E.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
presby1@mahaska.org
<http://www.oskaloosafirstpresbyterian.org>

Livestream Funeral Service

NOV 2. 1:30 PM.

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianOskaloosa>

Watch Garold's service live or later by logging on to the First Presbyterian Church's Facebook page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Garold Heslinga*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *Tim And Susan Latcham lit a candle in memory of Garold Heslinga*



Tim and Susan Latcham - December 25, 2022 at 10:38 AM



“ *I got acquainted with Garold while working in the Clerk of Court Office, he was always so kind and organized with his paperwork, a joy to know him!!*

Evonne VanMaanen - November 02, 2022 at 06:35 PM



“ *Lee And Connie Wright lit a candle in memory of Garold Heslinga*



Lee and Connie Wright - October 28, 2022 at 10:44 PM

KF

“ Karen Fisher lit a candle in memory of Garold Heslinga



Karen Fisher - October 28, 2022 at 07:52 PM

BT

“ Brenda Todd lit a candle in memory of Garold Heslinga



Brenda Todd - October 28, 2022 at 04:49 PM

DL

“ Family of Garold I am so sorry to hear of Garold's passing, he was a great friend to many.
It was a privilege too of known him.
Gods Peace to you all.

Debra Lowe - October 28, 2022 at 02:17 AM

CM

“ Cindy Mott lit a candle in memory of Garold Heslinga



Cindy Mott - October 27, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ I only knew Garold a short time, but I know how thoughtful and caring he has been. He will be missed by many and many know we will see him again one day. RIP my friend.



Shawn Lewis - October 27, 2022 at 04:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Garold Heslinga.



October 26, 2022 at 06:24 PM



“ *Garold was one of the wisest, intelligent, creative, and engaging persons Denise and I have ever met. He stole Denise's heart from the moment they met. I was a honor to know him and to study Scripture with him, and it was a joy to see the love he and Mary shared. Mary, our hearts are with you. Thank you for letting us be a part of your lives.*

Don Stribling - October 26, 2022 at 03:40 PM



“ *God grant eternal rest to Hes, and peace to his wife and family. A wonderful man and community servant has passed.*

Chuck Legvold - October 26, 2022 at 03:36 PM

SS

“ *Garold was a very dear friend of mine and also my Lawyer. We could talk about, Indians, art, politics, and so many interesting subjects. You will be sorely missed by many, and held dear to my heart. Mary I am so sorry for your loss, and life will be so different without him. It breaks my heart that this world will be without one less beautiful Christian man. It was a pleasure to know him.*

Susan Frost Salevsky - October 26, 2022 at 02:59 PM

SH

“ *Garold has been a friend of our family for years, and I've been friends with Kim for ages. He was a very generous and kind man, an admirable attorney, and gracious human being. Rest well Hes.*

Sandy Hildebrand - October 26, 2022 at 01:25 PM