



## John J. Duffey

May 8, 2010

John J. Duffey, 83, of Columbus and Worthington, Ohio, father, husband, judge, professor, WWII veteran and city council member, died on May 8, 2010 of complications from cancer. Born in Toledo, Ohio, he was the youngest son of Congressman Warren and Marie (Sawkins) Duffey, in a large and politically active Old West End Toledo family. A graduate of Central High School, he attended Ohio University before joining the U.S. Army in 1944 after his eighteenth birthday, serving in the Philippines and Japan as a Staff Sergeant. Upon his return, he married and obtained his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Michigan, graduating with high honors in 1951. After practicing with Fuller, Harrington & Seney in Toledo upon graduation, he moved in 1954 to Columbus, Ohio to become an Assistant and Associate Professor at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Governor Mike DiSalle appointed him to the Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals in 1960, where he served until 1969. He later became a partner in the firm of Topper, Alloway, Goodman, DeLeone & Duffey, and upon its merger in 1986, Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff. He retired from the practice of law in 1990, but never retired from public and community service. John took great interest in affairs beyond the courtroom. He served as a member and Chairman of the Columbus Planning Commission from 1956-1960, a member and vice-chairman of the Franklin County Regional Planning Commission from 1957-1960, and a member and president of the Columbus Civil Service Commission from 1970-1974. He served as an elected member of

Worthington City Council from 1983-2001, and was a member and chairman of Worthington Walnut Grove Cemetery Association from 1996-2001. He served as a member and chairman of the Bishop Hartley High School Board of Directors from 1966-1970, a member of the Board of the St. Vincent Family Center and of the Our Lady of Peace Parish Council during the 1960's. He was also a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. John loved and was loved by his family, and is survived by his dear wife, Ann (Stambaugh) Duffey and his former wife and friend, Suzanne (Heatley) Duffey, by his loving children Carole Duffey Hise (Michael Hise) of Columbia, MD; John Duffey, Jr. (Nancy Powers) of Dublin, OH; Nancy Duffey Edwards (David Edwards) of Upper Arlington, Ohio; Timothy Duffey (Colleen Duffey) of Upper Arlington, OH; Mary Duffey (Tony Logan) of Columbus, OH; Kevin Duffey (Natalie Wymer) of San Francisco, CA; Michael Duffey (Lindsay Duffey) of Worthington, OH; Karen Kuhlman Vaeth (Michael Vaeth) of Columbus, OH; Charles Kuhlman (Rebecca Kuhlman) of Columbus, OH; Jonathan Sams (Teri Sams) of Port Orchard, WA; Dan Sams of Lopez Is., WA and Adam Sams of Marysville, OH, as well as by many dear grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his dear parents and his siblings, Warren Duffey, Ruth Duffey Reynolds, Richard Duffey, Natalie Duffey and Cecile Duffey Strobel, and his former wife, Leslie Peralta Steinau. The family is very grateful to the staff of First Community Village for their warm and loving care. A prearranged party at First Community Village will go forward on Sunday. Family and friends may call at the RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High St., Worthington 43085 on Sunday, May 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and again Monday, May 10th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. A private family interment will take place in Walnut Grove Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Vincent Family Center, the College of Law at either The Ohio State University or the University of Michigan, the employees fund at First Community Village or the charity of your choice. Condolences for the family may be sent to: [www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com).



# Tribute Wall



“ *John J. Duffey*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I am very sorry for the lose of your father and husband. I always enjoyed taking care of John while he was at First Community Village and will miss seeing his face first thing in the morning. Ann take care of yourself...!! Courtney McAllister 7-3 aide for First Community Village*

**Courtney McAllister** - May 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *John was indeed a treasure in the City of Worthington. I recall giving him rides home after City Council meetings when his health no longer allowed him to drive. I will always remember the conversations. He taught me much.*

**Paul Feldman** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Tim, Colleen and Family Thinking of you at this very difficult time. Dad's passing is a time to reflect on all the wonderful memories, be with loved one's and celebrate the life that was his. Remember, he is in all of you and that was his legacy. God Bless You All. Love, Sue, Joe and Stephen Dobek*

**joe and sue dobek** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Dear Tim and Colleen, You are both in our hearts and prayers. We are so sorry for your loss, but are glad that you got to share your dad's last moments with family. Rick and Nancy

---

**Richard and Nancy Ray** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Michael, Lindsay, Jack & family - Our most sincere condolences to you at this sad time. We are so very sorry for your loss. These weeks have been full of highs & lows, never to be forgotten. We know you will remember all the good & special times - they will always mean so much. As Les would say: hugs to you all! - Sam & Molly Rife

---

**Sam & Molly Rife** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ To the family of John J. Duffey, John was a superb lawyer for whom I worked and from whom I was privileged to learn as a young law clerk and associate attorney. No question but that I am the attorney I am today in large part due to the mentoring that John provided to me in my most early and formative years as a young attorney. I have wonderful memories that I treasure and with much gratitude.

---

**Nancy L. Sponseller** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Tim, I am very sorry for your loss. Leslie

---

**Leslie Witzel** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *John, Mary and Family. I was sorry to read in the Dispatch of your father's passing. Your Dad was highly respected in all endeavors in which he was involved with and he helped raise a fine and distinguished family. Gene Branstool*

---

**Gene and Mary Jo Branstool** - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *I am very sorry for the death of John Duffey, so loved and cared for by you. And he, so obviously, loved ya'll. Please accept the prayers and concern of my own family on your and John's behalf. I knew him through the stories of my Dad, Warren J. Duffey. God Bless, Turner Duffey & Elise Eaddy and sons: Joseph Duffey, Joshua Duffey, John Duffey, Aiden Duffey(deceased), Gabriel Duffey*

---

**J W Turner Duffey** - May 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM