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those elements, plus compassion and understanding, and served the community well."

Predecessor

According to current 47th District Judge Fred Harris, his predecessor on the bench "always had that twinkle in his eye. He'd regale you for hours with Irish stories and Irish folklore. Just a brilliant man."

Harris also said he is forever indebted to Hand, whom he was appointed to succeed shortly following the latter's retirement in May 1989. Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard appointed Harris, having been recommended by Hand. "I owe my job as judge to Michael Hand."

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff met Judge Hand when he arrived in town in 1974. "I remember an extremely brilliant judge. He was

part of the community and cared about the people and law enforcement. You always knew when you walked into court he would do right and be fair."

Lauhoff described Hand as "charismatic and brilliant. You didn't worry going into court when he was the judge."

Hartsock said he'd see Hand on occasion at the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, a private club on Farmington Road. But in recent months, "It was kind of sad, because he was failing in health."

Arnold Campbell, city councilman during the final six years of the judge's tenure, said Hand and 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer "basically ran that place" in the early years. Hand was the first judge elected to the court, with his tenure beginning Jan. 1, 1969.

A fair judge

"In our dealings, he was always a fair and amenable judge," Campbell said Monday. "He looked for the fairest resolution to concerns."

That meant being mindful of the law but at the same time taking a closer look from the resident's point-of-view.

One scenario offered by Campbell was how to handle a citizen's lawsuit for a zoning variance "they didn't agree with. He was always an advocate for residents."

Hand's print on the Farmington-Farmington Hills area goes back decades, beginning with his move to a Farmington home in 1957.

In 1964, Hand was elected associate municipal judge for the city of Farmington, followed up with election in 1966 to municipal judge. Then, in 1968, he was voted in to lead the new 47th District Court, taking the oath on the first day of 1969. He served there until his retirement in May 1989.

Irish humor

Another element of the Toronto-born Hand's makeup was his penchant for Irish humor — specifically St. Patrick's Day, Campbell said.

"He was one for a quick joke," said Campbell, who was first elected to the council in 1984. "St. Patty's Day was a big day for him, too."

After coming to the United States in 1924, Hand attended Gesu Parochial School and University of Detroit High School. While at the U-D, he received every major speaking award given by that institution.

Time was spent honoring America. Hand entered the Army in July 1941 and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel with the Army Air Force, which he left in 1946. While in service, he was the adjutant general and inspector general of the 314 Bomb Wing.

Trial lawyer

Upon returning to civilian life, Hand graduated from the U-D Law School and joined the law firm of Monaghan, Hart and Crammer. From 1950-69, he was senior partner of Hand, Sullivan, Hull and



Charismatic: The late Judge Michael Hand is pictured here during a press conference in the late 1970s at Farmington City Hall.

Kiefer, in the capacity of trial lawyer.

One highlight of his later years took place Oct. 13, 1975, when both houses of the Michigan Legislature honored him with a resolution for distinguished public service.

And just a few years ago, a portrait of the judge was commissioned and completed.

"It's hanging in the courtroom I sit in, which was Judge Hand's courtroom," said 47th District Judge Harris, adding that many people from the court contributed money toward doing the portrait.

Besides wife Eileen A. Hand, survivors include six children: Patricia Michaud (Douglas); Sheila Gardner (Gary); Mary Kay Landenberg (Jim); Michael Hand, Jr. (Laura); Eileen Doyle (Peter); sister, Mary Connolly and 20 grandchildren. He also was father to the late Kevin and brother to Frank Hand, also deceased.

Visitation is today from noon to 9 p.m. at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Road in Farmington. After the funeral service at Our Lady of Sorrows, presided over by Msgr. Walter Hurley, burial will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

A scripture service is also scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today (June 10), at the funeral home.

Those wishing to make memorials in Hand's name are asked to send them to the Jesuit's, 7303 W. Seven Mile in Detroit or to Capuchin's Soup Kitchen, 1740 Mt. Elliott in Detroit.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

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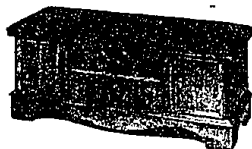
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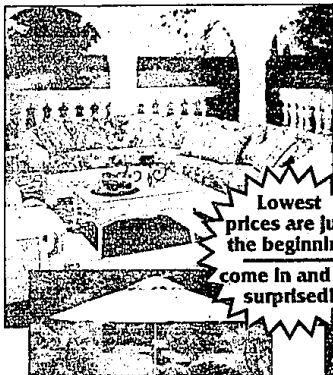


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