



## Harley A. Whitfield

October 7, 1930 - January 9, 2017

Harley A. Whitfield, 86, passed away on January 9, 2017, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Florida. Harley was a resident of Des Moines, Iowa up until retiring and moving permanently to Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Harley was born October 7, 1930, to Allen and Irma Cowan Whitfield. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines in 1947. He attended Iowa State University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1951, and was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. After graduation he married his high school sweetheart, Syrena Kinneman, in Des Moines in 1951. Following his military service as a lieutenant in the Air Force for two years, Harley attended Drake University Law School, graduating with honors in 1956 and earning membership in the Order of the Coif, and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. While in his last year of law school, he served as Executive Vice President of the nationwide American Law Student Association sponsored by the American Bar Association. Harley was a practicing attorney for more than 40 years, specializing in business and corporate law. He spent his entire legal career with the Des Moines law firm of Whitfield and Eddy, practicing from 1956 until his retirement in 1995.

Harley was a member of the Polk County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He was admitted to practice law in the State of Iowa and the District of Columbia. While in Des Moines, he

was President of the Des Moines Jaycees and was on the Model Cities Board. He served as a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, on the Board of Directors of the Iowa State Memorial Union, and on the Board of Directors of American Equity Investment Life Holding Company.

Lake Okoboji was a special part of Harley's life - visiting the lake for the first time as a boy, spending summers there after his parents purchased their cottage in Haywards Bay, honeymooning there with Syrena and buying a house in Egralharve Bay for his own young family to enjoy, and eventually retiring there. Like his time in Des Moines, he was active in Okoboji serving as past Commodore of the Okoboji Yacht Club, serving on the Board of Directors of the Okoboji Yacht Club Sailing School, Inc, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Okoboji Protective Association. He was an active racing sailor on Lake Okoboji for many years as well. In their retirement years, Harley and Syrena continued their love of life on the water, enjoying several winters in Longboat Key, Florida.

Harley is survived by his four children: Melanie (Dr. Steven) Carlson of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Robert Whitfield of Urbandale, Iowa; Harley Whitfield, Jr. of West Des Moines, Iowa; and Ann (Dan) Frink of Spencer, Iowa. Harley is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held from 4:00-6:00 P.M., on Friday, January 13, 2017, at the Schuchert-Lenz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Burial will be at Lake View Gardens Cemetery in Spirit Lake.

The family suggests that memorials may be made to the Okoboji Yacht Club Sailing School, Inc. P.O. Box 544, Milford, IA 51351.



# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
1812 Gary Ave  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harley A. Whitfield*



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**Robinson Funeral Home** - January 12, 2017 at 04:49 PM

AR

“ *Was sorry to read of your dad's passing, Harley. I didn't realize you had family in Spencer and Spirit Lake. May God bless you all. Anne Rehnstrom*

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**Anne Rehnstrom** - January 15, 2017 at 02:34 PM

TF

“ *The Gamma-Lambda Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harley A. Whitfield.*



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**The Gamma-Lambda Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity** -  
January 13, 2017 at 12:26 PM

MC

“ Our deepest Sympathies to Harley's family. He was a special man, wise...very wise, a great sense o f humor, and full of grace. He and Syrena were very special individuals, and an even better couple. He loved you all so much!. We are so sorry for your loss.  
Our Deepest Sympathies.  
All God's blessings to each of you, today, tomorrow, and forever.  
Mike & Anita Canney

Michael Canney - January 13, 2017 at 10:45 AM

GB

“ Harley was always welcomed at the Spencer Airport with open arms. He was such a genuine man with a smile to fill the room. We will miss Harley @ SPW! Our Sympathy to Harley's family!

Gayle Brandt - January 12, 2017 at 09:51 AM

RJ

“ Rick Jaacks lit a candle in memory of Harley  
A. Whitfield



Rick Jaacks - January 12, 2017 at 09:18 AM

RJ

May you find comfort in remembering someone so special- Rick and Heather Hanzlick-Jaacks

Rick Jaacks - January 12, 2017 at 09:19 AM

AM

“ Alan and Vrissiis Matula purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Harley A. Whitfield.



Alan and Vrissiis Matula - January 11, 2017 at 03:59 PM

DR

“ Diane, Craig & Kathy, Allen & Mary, Kirk & Roberta purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Harley A. Whitfield.



Diane, Craig & Kathy, Allen & Mary, Kirk & Roberta - January 11, 2017 at 02:58 PM

ML

“ Marilyn Lambert lit a candle in memory of Harley A. Whitfield



Marilyn Lambert - January 11, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harley A. Whitfield.



January 11, 2017 at 10:54 AM

BF

“ Harley was a very gentle and kind man and first thing home from Florida was to buy a large package of fillets which he enjoy the most.  
Barry and employees from Forbes

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**barry forbes** - January 11, 2017 at 09:43 AM

GP

“ Gary And Teresa Place lit a candle in memory of Harley A. Whitfield



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**Gary and Teresa Place** - January 11, 2017 at 08:43 AM

MI

“ We enjoyed getting to know Harley when we were helping with Syrena. You could see the love they shared for each other. Keep your memories close to your heart.

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**Mary and the staff at Home Instead** - January 10, 2017 at 10:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harley A. Whitfield.



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January 10, 2017 at 04:05 PM

BP

“ *Bob And Connie Peters sent a virtual gift in memory of Harley A. Whitfield*



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**Bob and Connie Peters** - January 10, 2017 at 12:29 PM

SJ

“ *Melanie, Steve & Family,  
We were so sorry to hear of your father, Harley's, passing! He will be missed by us personally and the Okoboji Yacht Club. He was a great mentor to me and an inspiration!  
Prayers to you all! Love, Sheryl & Brad Jones*

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**Sheryl Jones** - January 09, 2017 at 05:46 PM