

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative McCartney, Ralph Jordan Senator McCartney,  
Ralph J. - Represented Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Howard and Mitchell  
Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 11. Dec 1924 Charles City, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Rhoda Mae Hudson 25 June 1950 Charles City, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

- A. Business He was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Bar  
Association, American and Iowa Bar Associations, American Jurisprudence  
Society
- B. Civic responsibilities Elks Club, Lions Club, Mission,  
V.F.W., American Legion, May Camp, Historical Society, YMCA
- C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 62<sup>nd</sup> 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies 1967, 1969-1970 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1973-1974 - Senate

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State Member of the Iowa Judges Association

C. National Member of the American Bar Association, American Jurisprudence Society, member of Iowa  
Bar Association

7. Death 10 Mar 2007 Charles City, Iowa, Buried Riverside Cemetery, Charles City, Iowa

8. Children Ralph H.; Julian H. (Mrs. Leonard Deutchman); David

9. Names of parents Ralph C. and Helen (Hornbaker) McCartney

McCartney, Ralph Stankam

10. Education He was educated in the public schools of  
Charles City, Iowa graduating in 1942

11. Degrees B.S. Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. JD University of  
Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 1950

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Military service - World War II - U.S. Army 89<sup>th</sup> Division 1943-1945
- He was a member of the law firm of Heibers and Miller in Des Moines and  
in 1952 he co-founded Frye and McCartney law firm for 26 years.
- In 1971 he served as Honorary Colonel for the organization of Governor Robert Ray



## OBITUARIES

### Judge Ralph F. McCartney

Judge Ralph F. McCartney, 82, of 209 Park Drive in Charles City, died Saturday evening at the Floyd County Memorial Hospital in Charles City.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at the Congregational Church, 502 N. Jackson in Charles City, with the Rev. Phil Corr officiating. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery, Charles City with military respects provided by the Charles City Ceremonial Unit.

The family will greet relatives and friends from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday at Fullerton-Hage Funeral Home, 401 Blunt St. in Charles City and will continue on Wednesday at the church, one hour prior to the service.

Thoughts, condolences and stories may be e-mailed to the family on the [www.fullertonfh.com](http://www.fullertonfh.com) Web site.

Fullerton-Hage Funeral Home and Cremation Services, (641) 228-4211, [www.fullertonfh.com](http://www.fullertonfh.com), is in charge of the arrangements.

### Alan Sonne

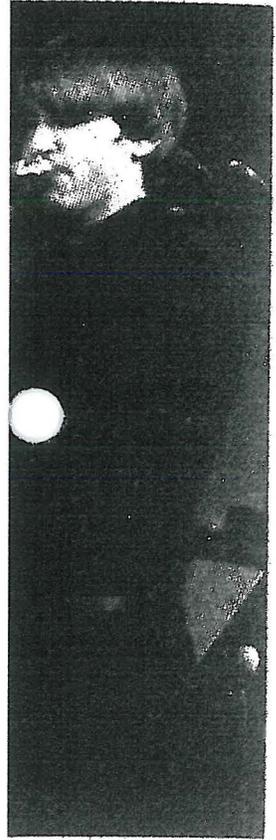
Alan Sonne, 57, of Charles City, died Friday, March 9, 2007, at Saint Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

Funeral services for Alan Sonne will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor David Werges will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at Charles City.

Friends may call at the Hauser Funeral Home in Charles City from 4-8 p.m. Monday. Visitation will continue Tuesday at the church an hour prior to the service.

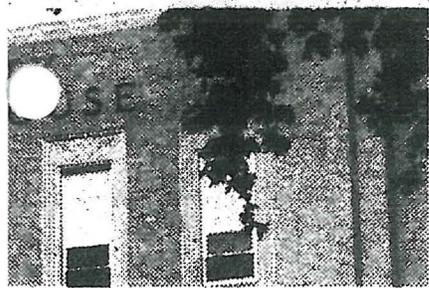
Alan Harry Sonne was born July 9, 1949, at Charles City, the son of Edward and Virginia (Jaeger) Sonne. He graduated from Charles City High School in 1968. On Sept. 15, 1984, he was united in marriage to Kathy Smith. Alan farmed in the Charles City area all of his life and was also a seed dealer for Dairyland Seed. He was a member of the Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farm Bureau and the Cattleman's Association. Alan will be remembered for his inventive genius as a welder and repairman who was more than willing to tackle any job.

Living family members include his wife, Kathy of Charles City; three sons, Edward, David and Alan; one daughter, Nancy; a sister, Nancy (Mark) Scherer of Cambridge, Minn.; two step broth



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Alcohol sale compliance checks at several local businesses. All but one business complied by not selling alcohol to a minor. Arguments are pending the person who served the minor.

### Sunday, March 11

12:08 a.m. — Received a report of a missing person. The subject was late arriving at home.

1:47 a.m. — Arrested a woman, F. Lee, 25, of Charles City, for disorderly conduct and interference with official acts after responding to a fight in the 100 block of North Main Street.

3:49 a.m. — Responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of F Street.

### District Court

Ricky Slick, 50, New Hampton, fined \$50 plus costs for fifth-degree theft.

Teddy Winters, 48, 906 Albert St., sentenced to 180 days in jail with all but seven days suspended and fined \$1,875 plus costs for second-offense operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Cody Demaray, 26, Rockford, sentenced to 30 days in jail with all but two days suspended and

## OBITUARIES

### Judge Ralph F. McCartney

Ralph F. McCartney, 82, of 1828 Cedarview Dr., Charles City died Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the Floyd County Memorial Hospital, following a lengthy illness.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at First Congregational Church, 502 N. Jackson St., in Charles City, with Rev. Phil Corr officiating. Interment will be in the Riverside Cemetery in Charles City. Military honors will be accorded by the Charles City Ceremonial Unit. Immediately following the interment, a reception will take place at the church.



The family will greet friends and relatives from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the Fullerton-Hage Funeral Home, 401 Blunt St. in Charles City. The visitation will continue on Wednesday at the church, one hour prior to Ralph's service.

Ralph Farnham McCartney was born Dec. 11, 1924, in Charles City, the son of Ralph C. and Helen (Farnham) McCartney. He graduated from Charles City High School in 1942 and from 1943 to 1945 served in the U.S. Army, 89th Division, during World War II. After attending Iowa State University and Cornell University, he graduated from the University of Michigan Law school, J.D., 1960, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.



He was united in marriage to Rhoda Mae Huxsol on June 25, 1950, in Charles City. Following two years as a member of the law firm Heuber and Miller in Des Moines, he and Rhoda returned to Charles City where, in 1952, he co-founded the Frye and McCartney law firm with partner Jack Frye, a position he held for 26 years.

He represented Floyd County in the Iowa House of Representatives during the 62nd and 63rd General Assemblies (1967-1970) and served as House Majority Leader during his second term. Following one term as a member of the Iowa State Board of Regents (1970-1972), he represented the 7th district in the Iowa State Senate during the 65th General Assembly (1973-1974). In December 1978 Gov. Robert Ray appointed him District Court Judge and from 1987 to 1992, served as chief judge for the Second Judicial District of Iowa. He was named senior judge for the State Court of Appeals in 1992.

Ralph F. McCartney was a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Twelfth Judicial District Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society and the Iowa State Bar Association. He served on the Judicial Coordinating Council of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Administration of Clerks. In 1995 he received the Distinguished Award of Merit from the Iowa Bar Association.

### Don

Don was born in 1923, in Charles City. He received his education from the local schools. He worked for the insurance company in Charles City. He was a member of the Des Moines Club and the Clarksburg Club. He was a nursing home operator.

Don was born in Charles City where he was president of the garden club. He was especially interested in her horticulture.

Don was a nursing home operator in death and brother-in-law in infancy.

Don was a member of the Clarksburg Club, Rockford, and of the Whittier family. He was a member of the Waverly family.

Funeral services were held in 2007, at the Nelson family. A "Don's Journey" art project by Jimmy Michael was arranged.

Don was a member of the Red Cross and arranged for the funeral.

### Den

Den was a member of the...

1200 block of F Street.

### District Court

Ricky Slick, 50, New  
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pended and fined \$1,875 plus  
its for second-offense operat-  
while intoxicated.

Cody Demaray, 26, Rockford,  
ntenced to 30 days in jail with  
but two days suspended and  
ed \$315 plus costs for second-  
ense public intoxication.

Troy Diesburg, 42, 805  
ison St., fined \$315 plus costs  
fifth-degree theft.

### Small Claims Court

Cynthia M. and Gary A.  
rlson, 605 N. Grand Ave.,  
ered to pay \$1,388.51 plus  
t and costs to First  
urity Bank and Trust of  
arles City.

Holly Thovson, Rockford,  
ered to pay \$1,175 plus costs  
l interest to H&R Accounts of  
lar Rapids.

### Magistrate Court

Keri A. Teege, 25, Osage,  
ed \$65 for fifth-degree theft.

### Traffic Violations

Benjamin L. Chiochon, 26,  
lar falls, speeding 6-10 mph  
r, \$20 plus costs; Katie J.  
tis, 20, Mason City, failure to  
y registration card, \$10 plus  
ts; Thomas D. Buttolph, 47,  
ge, speeding 6-10 mph over,  
is costs; Adam L. Ferch,  
4, S. Iowa St., speeding 10-  
mph over, \$30 plus costs.

Representatives during the 62nd and 63rd General Assemblies (1967-1970) and served as House Majority Leader during his second term. Following one term as a member of the Iowa State Board of Regents (1970-1972), he represented the 7th district in the Iowa State Senate during the 65th General Assembly (1973-1974). In December 1978 Gov. Robert Ray appointed him District Court Judge and from 1987 to 1992, served as chief judge for the Second Judicial District of Iowa. He was named senior judge for the State Court of Appeals in 1992.

Ralph F. McCartney was a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Twelfth Judicial District Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society and the Iowa State Bar Association. He served on the Judicial Coordinating Committee of the Iowa Supreme Court and chaired the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Administration of Clerks. In 1995 he received the prestigious Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church, where he served on its building committee and chaired the Prudential Board. He was also a member of St. Charles Masonic Lodge #141 and Consistory, the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City Art Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, B.P.O.E. and the American Legion. He served on the board of directors of the Lincoln Club, United Fund, Salvation Army and the Charles City YMCA, was past president of the Lions Club, and a member of the Charles City Savings and Loan Association. In 1971 he served as Honorary Colonel for the inauguration of Gov. Robert Ray, chaired the Republican State Convention the following year and was the Iowa director for President Gerald Ford's election campaign in 1976.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rhoda; two sons, Ralph (Lise) McCartney of Washington, D.C., David McCartney and his partner, (James Petersen) of Iowa City; a daughter, Julia (Leonard) Deutchman of Philadelphia, PA and one granddaughter, Sarah Deutchman of Scranton, PA.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents; Ralph C. and Helen (Farnham) McCartney.

Those wishing to extend memorials may direct them to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, P.O. Box 130, Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA 50131-0130; the First Congregational Church U.C.C., 502 N. Jackson St., Charles City, IA 50616; the McCartney Center, in C/O of Ann Troge, 1208 Clark St., Charles City, IA 50616 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

The family expresses its gratitude to the wonderful staff at Riverside Assisted Living and the Floyd County Memorial Hospital, Charles City, for their assistance and support.

Condolences, stories or thoughts may be sent to the family in the care of Fullerton Funeral Home on line at [www.fullertonfh.com](http://www.fullertonfh.com).

Fullerton-Hage Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 401 Blunt Street, Charles City, IA 50616. For funeral arrangements.



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Press file photo

**Lasting tribute**

Retired Judge **Ralph McCartney** (seated) is pictured above in a photo taken in July 2005 to commemorate the opening of the new McCartney Center, an educational program in Charles City designed to keep first-time drunk drivers from re-offending. The center was named after the McCartney family, which included his father, Mac McCartney, a one-time sheriff of Floyd County. Ralph McCartney, who passed away Saturday, was a distinguished district court judge, state legislator and member of the Board of Regents.

Also pictured are, from left: Prairie Ridge Executive Director Jay Hansen, Bill Cavanaugh of the McCartney Center, McCartney's wife Rhoda and Ann Troge of the McCartney Center.

**Local legal giant Judge McCartney remembered by friends, co-workers**

**By Mark Wicks**  
 Managing Editor

**Ralph McCartney** never fulfilled his dream of becoming a member of the Iowa Supreme Court — but he did just about everything else. The Charles City man had the rare distinction of serving on all three branches of government in Iowa — legislative, executive and judicial.

Judge McCartney — as he was referred to by almost everyone, even after his retirement — passed away Saturday at Floyd County Memorial Hospital at the age of 82, following a lengthy illness. He leaves behind his wife, Rhoda, and their three grown children; a grand daughter; friends and acquaintances from a rich, full life;

and a legacy of public service and law and order unmatched by most.

"This man was really quite a person," raved former Floyd County Sheriff William Cavanaugh, who got to know McCartney while he was still on the district bench and later valued his input in a drunk driver re-offender prevention center named after the McCartney family.

"He was just a wonderful judge, as far as I was concerned," commented current Floyd County Clerk of Court Barbara Fuls. "He had the reputation as a tough, but fair judge."

**McCartney**

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## McCartney

Continued from page 1

"He could be scary, if he wanted to be. I was a little leery of him when I started out as a court attendant in 1980. But, I had a lot of respect for him."

So did Charles City attorney James Smith, a lifelong friend of McCartney's who played with him as a youngster, and later tried cases before him in the courtroom.

"He had an excellent legal mind," said Smith. "You could rely on him to be fair. I was always impressed with his intelligence and demeanor in the courtroom."

"He and I were contemporaries and he was always complimentary, but he ran a courtroom with an iron hand. You knew who was boss, and no one ever tried to tell him what to do."

McCartney was born into law and order, the son of Ralph C. "Mac" McCartney, who was the sheriff of Floyd County at the time.

"His folks lived in the old jail (where Davico Car Wash is now) and we'd stand in the courthouse yard and talk all the time," said Smith. "When we were youngsters, his folks had a cabin along the Cedar River out at Lion's Field and my brother and I would go out there and play with him and swim in the river."

McCartney grew up in government and the legal system — literally.

"He was 17 years old when the new courthouse was built, and he told me he got to go up there a week before anyone else and live there. He kind of had run of the building," recalled Cavanaugh. "He loved to tell stories about the jail and talk history."

Smith said McCartney was also into family history.

"We both were proud of our lineal descent. My parents came from Scotland and, of course, he with the name 'McCartney.' That was always a common 'ie with us. He was always talking history."

After graduating from Charles City High School in 1942, McCartney began making his own history. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945 during World War II. Then, after attending Iowa State University and Cornell

University, he graduated from the University of Michigan Law school, J.D., in 1960.

"I know his military service was very important to him," remarked Fuls, who often had coffee with McCartney at the courthouse. "He talked about that a lot, as well as his days at Michigan. And, of course, his family."

After working at a law firm in Des Moines, McCartney and his wife returned to Charles City in 1952, where he co-founded the law firm of Frye and McCartney with partner Jack Frye.

"He was county attorney for awhile, way back when," reported Cavanaugh.

In 1967, McCartney took on a new public service role, as a state legislator. He was Floyd County's representative in the Iowa House through 1970, serving as House Majority Leader during his second term.

He left the Legislature for a couple of years and accepted an appointment as a member of the Iowa State Board of Regents, then returned to the Capitol in 1973, this time representing the 7th District in the Iowa State Senate for two years.

In December 1978, then-Gov. Robert Ray appointed McCartney as a District Court judge. From 1987 until 1992, he served as chief judge for the Second Judicial District of Iowa.

"He wasn't a gregarious fella. He wasn't a warm type, he was all business in that courtroom," recalled Smith. "He was very formal and proper in a lot of little things. You couldn't be non-chalant with him. I know some of the younger lawyers were scared to death of him. He was very formal and it was going to be his way. You learned quickly that you can't take liberties with Judge McCartney."

Cavanaugh remembers a time when an attorney, who rushed to the courthouse after being called at the last minute, walked into McCartney's court without a necktie.

"He threatened him with contempt because he came into his courtroom without a tie on," stated Cavanaugh. "Judge McCartney stopped the hearing and told him he wasn't coming in without a necktie. The attorney went out into the hallway and got one from somewhere."

"That's the way the rules were, and Judge

# Judge McCartney's courtroom

McCartney followed them. He had the reputation as a fair judge, though, who did not tolerate anything funny from either side. He was not pro-prosecution or pro-defense, he was always pro the facts of the case."

Smith said his friend wanted desperately to get onto the Iowa Supreme Court, "but he wasn't popular enough with the lawyers to earn their nomination."

"(Then-Gov.) Bob Ray would have appointed him, too," Smith added. "He was a close, personal friend of Bob Ray's and had some good connections in Des Moines. Ray would have appointed him, I think."

McCartney served as honorary colonel for Ray's 1971 inauguration and chaired the Republican State Convention the following year. In addition, he was also the Iowa director for President Gerald Ford's election campaign in 1976.

McCartney's service wasn't just on the district or state end. Locally, he served on the board of directors of the Lincoln Club, United Fund, Salvation Army and the Charles City YMCA and was a past president of the local Lions Club.

"He kind of retired and went to senior judge status, which meant when another judge was gone, he would fill in," reported Cavanaugh. "He maintained an office at the courthouse, and you could often find him sitting in the back room of the clerk's office, drinking coffee and talking law and history."

While the Supreme Court eluded him, McCartney and his expertise were called back to service in 1992, when he was appointed as senior judge for the Iowa Court of Appeals. He also was asked to serve on the Judicial Coordinating Committee of the Iowa Supreme Court and chaired the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Administration of Clerks.

"He was a smart man and always had strong opinions — and wasn't afraid to share them," said Smith. "You may not have always agreed with him, but you respected his opinion and the way he stood behind it."

He would not tell you what you wanted to hear. He would tell you the truth and what was best,"

added Cavanaugh.

One thing the very formal McCartney didn't like to hear, Smith commented, was any kind of a joke at his expense.

"You had to be careful with McCartney, you couldn't kid with him too much," said Smith. "But he was always gracious to me and to my wife."

And when it came to addressing him, both Smith and Cavanaugh noted, it was always as "Judge McCartney" or "Your Honor."

"Even when he was at Riverside Assisted Living, it was 'Judge McCartney.' He was always the judge. But, at the same time, he would come down to the breakroom at the courthouse and sit and have coffee with the guys," Cavanaugh added. "Judge McCartney was a good guy. You just had to know the rules and obey them."

Two years ago, when Cavanaugh and Magistrate Ann Troge wanted to open a center in Charles City for the education of first-time drunk drivers to try and keep them from becoming re-offenders, they sought out Judge McCartney's advice.

"We went to him for his input and he looked at Ann and said, 'As an officer of the court, you have an obligation to do something good like this,'" Cavanaugh remembered. "That's when we decided to name it after the McCartney family and all that they've done — with their permission, of course."

When the center opened in September 2005, it was officially called the McCartney Center, and today still carries on the McCartney tradition of law and order and doing what's right.

"I think he was proud of that center," Cavanaugh commented. "He graciously accepted our offer to name it what we did in honor of his mother and father. He told me, 'Mom and Dad would have been very proud of this.'"

Judge McCartney commanded respect, but he was also a very humble man in a lot of ways, at least to me. His loss is a big deal, and I wouldn't be surprised if his funeral draws a lot of attention around the state."

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at First Congregational Church in Charles City. A full obituary appears on page 3 of today's Press.