

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

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Linn?  
to show on  
list?

Name of Representative Senator, James Peter Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represents Polk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 3 Sept 1925 Bucknell, Monroe County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Patricia

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a member of the Iowa Bar Association and  
the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sessions served 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly 1965

6. Public Offices

A. Local Assistant Polk County attorney for 3 years in the 1950's;  
judge in Iowa 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for 20 years

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 27 Apr 1988 Des Moines, Iowa; buried

8. Children Peter; Anne

9. Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Senate, James Peter

10. Education He attended schools in Albia, Iowa.

11. Degrees He earned a B.A. and an L.L.B. degree from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He was one of 12 children born into the family of a coal miner being born in a Monroe County, Iowa coal mining camp.
- The family later moved into Albia, Iowa also in Monroe County.
- He began his law practice in Des Moines, Iowa



# Grand moose

Artist Gerald G. Balciar of Arvada, Colo., checks to ensure his cargo is secure Wednesday along Interstate Highway 80 in Iowa. He doesn't want a loose moose as he transpue to MoLoyal Or

## Judge Denato dies after battle with cancer

By GENE RAFFENSPERGER

Register Staff Writer

James P. Denato, who went from the Monroe County coal mining camp of Bucknell to the Polk County District Court bench, died of cancer Wednesday at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

"Pete Denato was a classic American success story," said Leo Oxberger, chief judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals and a longtime friend of Denato's.

Denato was one of 12 children of a coal miner. The family later moved from the coal mining camp to Albia, where Denato attended the public schools.

He left Albia to attend Drake University in Des Moines, and he received his undergraduate and law degrees from Drake.

### Served in Iowa House

He began practicing law in Des Moines and was an assistant Polk County attorney for three years in the 1950s. He also served one term in the Iowa House of Representatives in the mid-1960s.

Denato, 62, who lived at 1610 Watrous Ave., had served as a judge in Iowa's Fifth Judicial District for

**DENATO**

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## Iowa Con to receive

By CHARLES BULLARD

Register Staff Writer

Secretary of State Elaine will carry the Iowa Constitution to her Statehouse safe to her 19 Friday and chauffeur it to the city of Iowa so the 131-year-old document can be restored.

William Anthony, a conservator at the University of Iowa Library, agreed to undertake the painstaking process of restoring the 18 constitution, which has been in storage since the secretary of state's death.

The constitution is deteriorated and Baxter has been trying to restore it for more than a year. He carefully belted it into the front of her car last March and drove it to Iowa City so Sharlane Grant, a conservator with the State Historical Society of Iowa, could restore it. Grant resigned to take another job before starting the project. A priceless document was returned to Baxter's office in Des Moines.

Baxter contacted Anthony about receiving a number of telegrams about him from Iowans who were concerned about Baxter's difficulty in finding a qualified person to restore the constitution.

### Tears Throughout

Anthony examined the document and found tears throughout. The papers are acidic and brittle and the calf skin cover is severely worn. But Anthony said the

## Youth plans to show Iowa glass

By DEBORA WILEY

Of The Register's Cedar Rapids Bureau

Eleven-year-old Ben Burkle of Cedar Rapids is training to become a citizen diplomat

ing across three sections of the United States levels are in June and July. A similar walk was held last Slava S

# Judge Denato dies after battle with cancer

## DENATO

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more than 20 years. He was appointed to the district court bench in October 1967 by Gov. Harold Hughes.

Hughes said Wednesday: "I'm saddened by his death. The state and community have lost a great deal. He was a good public servant."

Said Oxberger, "He had three great loves in his life: his family, the law and sailing. He loved and protected each with all his heart."

Prior to becoming a judge, Denato was active in Democratic Party politics. He served a term as executive secretary of the Polk County Democratic Central Committee.

Charles Hanson, treasurer and vice president of Equitable Life Insurance Co. of Iowa and treasurer of the Iowa Democratic Party, recalled the day he saw Denato, then a lawyer, scale a ladder at a house on Des Moines' southeast side to collect money for the Democrats.

"We were out collecting 'Dollars for Democrats' and Pete knocked on the door of this house," Hanson said. "The owner was up on the roof fixing the roof and Pete told him what we were doing. The guy said he'd give us a buck if Pete would come up and get it. So Pete went up the ladder."

Denato never gave up his battle with cancer until the end. He worked until just days before his death.

"He didn't want to freeload," said Hanson.

Denato won praise in 1977 for his part in eliminating a large criminal case backlog in Polk County, and he lobbied successfully to get Polk County criminal defendants sent to Broadlawn Medical Center for psychiatric examinations rather than have them make the more expensive trip to Iowa City.

He drew the ire of members of Sup-



James P. Denato  
"American success story"

port Your Local Police because they believed he had a disregard for public safety when he refused to revoke the probation of a man later charged with killing a police officer in Des Moines.

Judge Oxberger described Denato on the bench this way: "Some lawyers would say he was impatient. But his impatience was not personal. He was very demanding of excellence by a lawyer in behalf of his client. And although he was always fair to every litigant in his court he had a special place in his heart for the underdog."

Surviving are his wife, Patricia, who is features editor of The Des Moines Register; a son, Peter, a student at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn.; a daughter, Anne, at home; four sisters, Bertha Hammer of Des Moines, Lena Schadt of Colona, Ill., and Mary Lutz and Betty Angerer, both of Davenport; and four brothers, Joe of Otumwa, Quinto of Kodiak, Alaska, Eddie of Orlando, Fla., and James L. of Huxley.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Dunn's Funeral Home.

The family has suggested that any memorial contributions be made to the Polk County Juvenile Court Volunteers in Probation. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

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## CONSTITUTION

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Cost: \$12,000

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Baxter, who about the con ever since she 1987, is relieved is going to be "It is the state to be in preserving the "I think it is today and in document, no read it some have a chance document its something wrote it.

"It helps but it also is part of our preserve."

# Golf come to perform

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