

In Memoriam



George H Lyons (March 6, 1947 – August 28, 2013)

AFL has lost one of its stalwarts. George H. Lyons was an early adopter and a huge supporter of everything AFL stands for. He was a charter member, and one of the first to become a Sustaining Member. He was first in line to volunteer for AFL's mentoring project at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Thanks to George, our law student-mentoring project is a success.

George died on August 28, 2013. But as every trial lawyer knows, there is more to a man's life than just the facts about the man. Facts do not say much about character or impact. George Lyons had character in spades and cast a huge shadow over the law for four decades. He was a lawyer in full. He knew the law the way Frank Lloyd Wright knew architecture. Deeply, embedded, and close to both heart and mind. He never sat when a lady or a judge came in the room; a stand-up guy in every sense of the word. He invariably said yes, even when most of us might have said no. He never turned anyone down for the largest of favors, or the smallest of gestures. Nobody that knew George knew anything unkind or uncivil about him. And everybody knew him. He never wanted to be "somebody." But he was.

He was the same man at the turn of the 21st Century as he was in the turbulent seventies. A man of character, good humor, and exquisite taste in everything. The newspaper obit said that he would not have wanted an obituary that dwelled on his many accomplishments. AFL will honor that wish. But lest anyone think otherwise, George Lyons made every Hallmark list of excellent lawyering. He was at the top of his profession for more than forty years. He will always be one of Arizona's Finest Lawyers. His smiling face will stay on our website for as long as any of us remember him. That will be a very long time.

- by Gary L. Stuart