

Oppliger, Ernest F.

Ernest F. Oppliger, 84, of Port Huron, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, May 9, 2007, in Port Huron Hospital. He was born to Edwin and Eleanore Oppliger on September 2, 1922 in Lincoln, Kansas. He attended Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska before serving with the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Later he graduated from Valparaiso University Law School in 1951 and married Florence K. Krueger in Harbor Beach on June 16, 1951. He came to Port Huron in 1957 and practiced law until being appointed Circuit Court Judge by Governor William Milliken in 1974. He retired from the bench in August 1994. Judge Oppliger was a member of the Michigan Bar Association and was a member and past president of the St. Clair County Bar Association. He was also a member and past president of both the Optimist Club and Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and was a member of Port Huron Golf Club. Judge Oppliger is survived by his wife of nearly 56 years, Florence; his five children, Ellie (Ralph) Banish, of Port Huron, Karen (Richard) Widerynski, of Long Beach, California, David (Kristine) Oppliger, of Fort Gratiot, Douglas (Shawn) Oppliger, of Hancock, and Cynthia (Tim) Baker, of Noblesville, Indiana; 10 grandchildren, Laura Banish, Stasia Widerynski, Eric and Lucas Oppliger, Karen, Louise, and Ruth Oppliger, Zachary, Melissa and Elizabeth Baker; his sister, Sue Oppliger, of Shreveport, Louisiana; his brother, Paul Oppliger, of Traverse City; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Jeffrey Banish. The funeral service was conducted on Saturday, May 12, 2007, with burial in Rock Falls Cemetery, Harbor Beach. The Smith Family Funeral Home-North, 1525 Hancock Street, Port Huron, handled the arrangements. Pallbearers were Richard Huegli, Cindy Lane, Judge Allen Keyes, Tim Hoffman, Dan Harpold, and Dan Saunders. Members of the St. Clair County Bar Association were honorary pallbearers. Contributions may be made in Judge Oppliger's memory to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, the YMCA, or Blue Water Hospice. To send condolences, visit smithfamilyfuneralhome.com.