



Honorable Chester G. Senf Jr., ALJ

December 2, 1932 - November 8, 2016

Honorable Chester G. Senf, Jr., ALJ, (1932-2016), died Tuesday, November 8 in Tallahassee. He was 83 years old. Judge Senf retired in August after serving nearly 29 years as a federal Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. He was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and served in Alexandria, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida. He had one of the highest percentages of approved dispositions and the lowest percentage of cases denied or dismissed.

Judge Senf was a native of St. Louis, MO. He attended Washington University in St. Louis before joining the U.S. Navy. Thanks to the GI Bill, he graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, and was awarded a Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1965 and was recently honored as a 50-year member. He dedicated his life to public service, working as an Associate General Counsel for several agencies of the State of Florida, including the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) and Department of Insurance. In 1974, he successfully argued a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Keller (Oliver) v. Mixon (Denise)*.

Judge Senf proudly served as a U.S Naval Aviator with several squadrons, including as a member of Strike Fighter Squadron 14 (VA-14), "The Oldest and the Boldest," known as the "Tophatters." and VA-741 known as "Blue Dolphins." He also served as a Naval flight instructor, and retired with the rank

of Lt. Commander after serving 25 years in the Naval Reserves. Judge Senf began his naval aviation career flying the F6F Hellcat and retired flying the A-4 Skyhawk.

Judge Senf was pre-deceased by his parents, Helen and Chester G. Senf, Sr.; his former wife, Barbara M. Senf; and his brother, Lee Senf. He is survived by his five children, Melanie (Woody) Woodrick, Madison, MS; Karen Reyes, Tallahassee; Lauren (Claude) Walker, Tallahassee; Suzanne (Brent) Kerger, San Clemente, CA; and Taylor Senf, Alexandria, VA. Also celebrating his life are 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A private ceremony featuring military honors will be celebrated by the family.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Chet and I were attorneys at the old Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. He served in Jacksonville and I was in Tallahassee. He was an incredible mentor to me as this was my first job out of law school! I stayed in touch with Chet off and on through his time as a federal ALJ. I was an ALJ with the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings before my retirement. Chet was a brilliant attorney and a just and always fair jurist. I appreciated his great humor, and even though we did not agree politically very often, he was always great fun to argue with and talk to.

In recent years I lost contact with him and am deeply saddened by the news of his passing.

With sympathy and respect to the family,

Mary Clark

Tallahassee

Mary Clark - November 11, 2016 at 10:29 AM