

ALUMNI

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni, whose deaths were reported to the school since the date of our last publication.

37 John Elliott Shambert, '37, of Prairie Village, Kan., on June 9, 2009

48 John Edward Weeks, '48, of Pocatello, Idaho, on Sept. 9, 2009

50 Charles Donald Anderson, '50, of Cheney, Kan., on May 3, 2009

51 Lieutenant Duane Alvin Bush, '51, of Bonita Springs, Fla., on Jan. 2, 2009 • Norton Clay Frickey Sr., '51, of Golden, Colo., on June 14, 2009 • Sidney C. Hunt, '51, of Overland Park, Kan., on Dec. 5, 2008 • Edwyn Reuben Sherwood, '51, of Bellevue, Wash., on May 28, 2009

52 The Honorable Robert Aaron "Bob" Thiessen, '52, of Wichita, on March 16, 2009

55 Floyd Dale Sorrick Jr., '55, of Washington, Kan., on May 31, 2009

56 Hugh D. Mauch, '56, of Great Bend, Kan., on August 5, 2009

58 George Dean Wagstaff, '58, of Tecumseh, Kan., on May 11, 2009

61 David Donelle Gaumer, '61, of Lawrence, Kan., on March 27, 2009 • Richard Paul Senecal, '61, of Atchison, Kan., on April 23, 2009

62 Franklin Kenneth Crews Jr., '62, of Hutchinson, Kan., on March 11, 2009

67 Terry T. Messick, '67, of Anthony, Kan., on July 27, 2009

68 Robert D. Ochs, '68, of Topeka on Aug. 15, 2009

73 Georgann Rausch Mefferd, '73, of Des Moines, Iowa, on Jan. 8, 2009 • C. Perry Murray, '73, of Gold Canyon, Ariz., on June 15, 2009

74 Philip A. "Phil" Harley, '74, of Piedmont, Calif., on July 2, 2009 • David M. Jancich, '74, of Lenexa, Kan., on July 5, 2009

75 Jerome K. "Jerry" Osburn, '75, of Las Vegas, Nev., on July 27, 2009

76 Sondra Juanita Hammons Newsom, '76, of Topeka on May 16, 2009

79 Ronald R. "Ron" Gooding, '79, of Topeka on July 4, 2009

81 John O. "Jack" Mingle, '81, of Laramie, Wyo., on Oct. 10, 2009

85 Duke Nguyen Browning, '85, of Katy, Texas, on September 23, 2009

86 David J. Dunlap, '86, of Topeka on September 27, 2009

88 Eric Lee Whitner, '88, of Omaha, Neb., on Aug. 29, 2009

A Tribute to Duke Nguyen Browning (Duc Ngoc Nguyen), '85

by Professor Myrl Duncan

More than any other student I have taught in 32 years at Washburn University School of Law, Duke personified the infinite resiliency of the human spirit. As a teenager in Vietnam during the war, he worked as a military photographer and in 1975 faced certain death at the hands of the victorious North Vietnamese. With ingenuity and luck, and dodging mortar shells, he managed to escape on one of the last helicopters to leave Saigon. Eighteen years old, with only a few years of formal education and knowing only a few English words, he made his way to the United States.

With the help of those who recognized his native intelligence, he received equivalency education and graduated from college. By way of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity he arrived at Washburn, where his unshakeable optimism, hard work, determination and pure grit won him the love and affection of the law school community. When he became a naturalized U.S. citizen during his first year, his classmates carried him from the courthouse on their shoulders — and then presented him with an apple pie. He dreamed of being able to use his law degree to help tend to the legal needs of the Vietnamese community in Houston, Texas, and he simply refused to let the obstacle of a bar exam in his second language stand in his way. He went on to become a successful attorney and businessman in Houston. Duke enriched — even changed — the lives of those who knew him, and he brought great credit to Washburn Law.