

United States District Court
District of Colorado

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PRESS RELEASE

May 27, 2019

The District of Colorado Mourns the Death of Senior United States District Judge Richard P. Matsch

It is with great sadness that the United States District Court for the District of Colorado announces the death of Senior United States District Judge Richard P. Matsch. Judge Matsch died on May 26, 2019. President Richard M. Nixon appointed Judge Matsch to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado in 1974. He served as Chief Judge for the District of Colorado from 1994 to 2000. He assumed senior status on July 1, 2003. Judge Matsch was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States from 1991 to 1994 and a board member for the Federal Judicial Center from 1995 to 1999.

“Judge Matsch will be remembered for the way that he handled the Oklahoma City bombing cases, reaffirming the public’s faith in our judicial system through his firmness, fairness, and dignity during a particularly wrenching episode in our nation’s history,” stated Chief Judge Philip A. Brimmer. “He was everything a judge should be – a legal scholar, a leader of the court, and a compassionate guardian of the rule of law. We have lost a judicial hero.”

Judge Matsch was born in Burlington, Iowa. He received his college degree in 1951 and his law degree in 1953, both from the University of Michigan. He served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955, including service in Korea. After leaving the Army, Judge Matsch worked in private practice in Denver from 1956 to 1959, was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Colorado from 1959 to 1961, and was a deputy city attorney for the City and County of Denver, Colorado from 1961 to 1963. He returned to private practice from 1963 to 1965. He served as a referee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado from 1965 to 1973, and was appointed as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Colorado, where he served from 1973 to 1974.

The Court extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to Judge Matsch's family.

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