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Tribute

Karen Ashcraft Byrne

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TRIBUTE

*Karen Ashcraft Byrne**

G. Joseph Cardine has done everything that one can do in the profession of law. Since receiving his Doctor of Jurisprudence with Honors in 1954, he has been in private practice (1954-1977); elected county and prosecuting attorney (1966); President of the Wyoming State Bar Association (1977-78); on the faculty of the University of Wyoming College of Law, teaching torts, criminal procedure and trial practice (1977-1983); Justice on the Wyoming Supreme Court (appointed by Governor Ed Herschler in 1983) and Chief Justice in 1989-90; instrumental in organizing the Western Trial Advocacy Institute; WTAI's first director (1981) and present director (1989-1995); and faculty member, Trial Lawyer's College at Gerry Spence's Thunderbird Ranch (1994-1995). Before law school, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Engineering, served with the United States Air Force (1943-46) and was a civil engineer for Texas Company.

For the Wyoming Centennial celebration, a distinguished panel of lawyers and law professors selected the thirty most significant cases issued by the Wyoming Supreme Court in the preceding 100 years. Six of those thirty opinions were authored by Justice Cardine. He and Senator Alan Simpson were a moving force for the appointment of a federal judge in Casper, Wyoming. He has authored a number of opinions selected as lead cases for A.L.R.

Pretty impressive! But, with these accomplishments, the best characteristic of Joe Cardine is his interest and zeal for all aspects of whatever he does. He always says that if what he is doing quits being fun, he will do something else. He is excited and enthusiastic about his endeavors and the people around him. Such enthusiasm is contagious. There is an aura of excitement and fun in whatever Justice Cardine is doing.

* Former law clerk of Justice G. Joseph Cardine. Private practice, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

He has a quite incredible ability to inspire trust and faith and love in those with whom he associates. This is shown each year by the devotion of the students at the Western Trial Advocacy Institute and was most noticeable among the students at the Trial Lawyer's College. Upon his retirement from the Wyoming Supreme Court, all of his former law clerks traveled from whatever city they now live and gave him a private farewell dinner. They presented him with a leather bound set of his written opinions. All came. Few, if any, judges have inspired such loyalty and admiration.

This is not to say, however, that Justice Cardine is not a fighter: if he perceives a social injustice or a wrong, he is the first to enter the fray. One major talent is the ability to convince others that he is right and that they should not only be on his side, but also actively support and help. This trait has been most useful in the courtroom. Anyone who has seen Joe Cardine persuade a jury of the correctness of his position has learned valuable lessons in courtroom dynamics.

Justice Cardine is married to Janice Cardine. They have three children: Susan, who is an attorney in Fredericksburg, Virginia; John, who is employed in Casper, Wyoming; Lisa, who is an attorney in Kansas City, Missouri; and, two grandchildren, John Joseph and Sydney. Joe has been a banker and a rancher as well as a teacher, author, lecturer and lawyer. He is presently a monthly columnist for a state-wide Wyoming newspaper.

I'm not sure if Joe has decided what he wants to do in retirement: teach, write, ranch, practice law, all of these, or something totally new. It is safe to say, however, that if he isn't having fun doing whatever he's doing, he will do something else. The best of luck, Joe, in whatever you do!