

Arthur G. Coffey



WEST ROXBURY —

Arthur G. Coffey, 88, former judge of the Nantucket and Middlesex Probate Courts (1980-1990) and former deputy mayor and corporation counsel of the City of Boston (1960-1967), died on June 10, 2009, at home with his family.

Arthur was born in Boston on Feb. 22, 1921, to the late Arthur F. Coffey and Ethel (Collins) Coffey.

He was the loving husband of the late Betty Lou (Banister) Coffey and is survived by his six daughters, Carol Agrillo of Colrain, Linda Coffey of Canton, Diane Coffey of Buckland, Mary Ellen Kirby of Marshfield, Elizabeth Erickson of Eastham, and Susan Coffey of Mansfield; and a son, Attorney Joseph E. Coffey of West Roxbury. Arthur is also survived by 16 grandchildren, Joseph, Jacqueline and Patricia Coffey, Joseph, Anthony and Susan Agrillo, Karen, Laura and Eric Woods, Christopher Coffey and Rachael Scanlan, Samuel and John Erickson, Jillian, Marc and Daniel Gaudreau; two great-grandchildren, Tiegan Rose and Logan; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Walter Coffey of South Boston; and sisters, Ruth Kent of Boston, Patricia Wicks of Malden, Jean Meara of Malden, and Mariette Coffey of Boston.

Like so many of his generation, Arthur enlisted and served in the Army Air Forces during World War II. He married Betty Lou (Banister) of Lockhart, Texas, his devoted and loving wife for more than 60 years, whom he met while stationed in Texas.

After graduating from Suffolk Law School, he entered private practice and became an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Boston. Under Mayor John F. Collins, he was appointed corporation counsel for the City of Boston and deputy mayor. He also served as a trial attorney for the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

In 1980, he was appointed to the Nantucket Probate and Family Court and to the Cambridge Probate and Family Court in 1982 by Governor Edward J. King. After retiring from the bench, he served as a master and mediator in Suffolk, Berkshire, Franklin, Middlesex, Hampshire and Hampden counties.

Arthur was an avid Boston sports fan, but more important to him was watching his children and grandchildren's sports, musical and school events. Judge Coffey was a talented poker player. He was the patriarch of the Coffey Cup Family Whist Tournaments, which he especially enjoyed during the holidays. He was a devotee to daily walks around Jamaica Pond, often accompanied by his grandchildren or nieces and nephews. His passion for painting can be seen in his many oil paintings that have been displayed in courthouses across the state and in the West Roxbury Public Library.

His winters were spent at his home in Lockhart, Texas, visiting many relatives and friends. He was a longstanding member of the West Roxbury Art Association, American Legion Post No.36 and the Retired Opinion Makers Eating Out (ROMEOS).

Funeral will be held from the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre St., WEST ROXBURY, on Saturday, June 13, at 9 a.m. Funeral Mass will follow in St. Theresa Church at 10. Visiting hours are Friday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Interment is in Mount Benedict Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Betty Lou Coffey Memorial Scholarship, c/o Mount Alvernia High School, 790 Centre St., Newton, MA 02458, or to the West Roxbury Art Association, 2093 Centre St., West Roxbury, MA 02132.

