

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMORIAL TO THE HONORABLE  
JON R. COLLINS.

## ORDER

As an expression of the esteem and respect held by the Bench and Bar of the State of Nevada for the late HONORABLE JON R. COLLINS, who passed away in Las Vegas on March 12, 1987,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following memorial be printed in the next published volume of the Nevada Reports.

CLIFF YOUNG,  
*Chief Justice*

THOMAS L. STEFFEN,  
*Associate Justice*

CHARLES E. SPRINGER,  
*Associate Justice*

JOHN CODE MOWBRAY,  
*Associate Justice*

ROBERT E. ROSE,  
*Associate Justice*

Attest: Janette M. Bloom,  
*Clerk of the Supreme Court*

## MEMORIAL

JON R. COLLINS was born in Ely on May 7, 1923, the son of Dorothy and Frey Collins. A lifelong resident of Nevada, he graduated from White Pine High School and from the University of Pennsylvania.

He served two years in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and witnessed the Bikini atomic blast as an ensign aboard a support ship to Operation Crossroads. After the war, he joined the staff of Senator Patrick McCarran and attended Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he received his law degree. It was in Washington that he met and married his wife Rita.

After completing his education, JUSTICE COLLINS returned to Ely and opened his law practice. His interest in politics led him to run successfully for White Pine County District Attorney, in which office he served from 1950 to 1954. Commencing in 1952,

he served as delegate to the National Democratic Convention in every convention when he was not precluded from doing so by judicial constraints. He later headed the campaign to obtain the nomination of Jimmy Carter on the presidential ticket, and spearheaded the Carter campaign in Nevada.

From 1958 to 1966, he sat as a district judge in his home county, until April 18, 1966, when he was appointed by Governor Grant Sawyer to fill the vacancy on the Nevada Supreme Court created by the death of JUSTICE MILTON B. BADT.

JUSTICE COLLINS served on the Supreme Court until 1971. He was Chief Justice in 1969 and during his tenure on the court, he authored 163 cases. After 12 years of judicial service, JUSTICE COLLINS retired from the Supreme Court and joined the law firm of Lionel Sawyer and Collins, now one of the largest in the state. His law partner and friend former Governor Grant Sawyer spoke of JON COLLINS in the following words:

I should confess that I am entirely incapable of putting into words what should be said about Jon Collins. Given the fact that he was a distinguished Nevadan, that he was an outstanding jurist, a highly respected attorney, the more personal side of Jon is what I would really like to talk about. He was so real; no artifice, no guile, no con. What you saw was what you got with Jon. He was totally unaffected and unassuming, dead honest, but probably the most important fact of Jon's character was his abiding concern about other people. He had friends in all walks of life, and he spent a lot of his life trying to help others. . . . He knew and was close to people in the highest government circles and he was friend and counselor to the poor and the needy and the disadvantaged. His girls were the basis of his life as he was theirs. He gloried in the successes and achievements of others . . . he was totally selfless. Jon was one of the few people that I've known who never in my presence made a mean, petty or unkind remark about another person. That rare quality of Jon's was felt, if not understood, by people throughout this State. I never went anywhere in the State of Nevada but that someone, usually a number of people, did not ask about Jon Collins. He knew and was respected by everyone, and loved by all those who knew him well. He leaves a void in our lives and we will miss him.