



## The Honorable Francis X. O'Brien

February 19, 1933 - March 31, 2011

The Honorable Francis X. O'Brien, age 78, a resident of Troy since 1997, formerly a longtime resident of Royal Oak, died March 31, 2011 at his home. He was born February 19, 1933 in Sidney, OH. The Honorable Judge O'Brien graduated from St. Mary High School in Royal Oak. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He was the former co-owner of O'Brien/Detroit Towing. He received his BA in Business and Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit. He then became a District Circuit Court Judge. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians - Norman O'Brien Division, South Oakland Bar Association, Polish American Lawyers Society, Royal Oak Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus Bishop Gallagher Council and Sierra Club of Oakland County. He is survived by his wife, Shirley O'Brien; children, Colleen Philip Abraham of Royal Oak, Francis X. Patricia O'Brien, Jr. of Ferndale, Daniel P. Ann Marie O'Brien of Troy, Erin Thom Damon of Highland Township and Kevin Stephanie O'Brien of Salt Lake City, UT; and 16 grandchildren. The visitation will be Monday 2-9 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Rosary at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W Eleven Mile Road 4 blks. E of Woodward, Royal Oak. The Honorable Judge O'Brien will lie in state Tuesday 10 a.m. until the time of Mass 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Troy. The inurnment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorials to Serra Club of Oakland County, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).



# Tribute Wall

JB

“ On behalf of many of his friends and classmates from Lincoln High School, Ferndale MI, I would like to extend condolences to the family of Frank O'Brien, who was a great friend to many of us and one of our most notable classmates.

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**John R. Bellefleur** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Shirley, It is with sadness that we extend our sympathies to you at this time. We remember well the times with Frank at Lincoln High School as well as the times we encountered each other in our professions in Law Enforcement, Frank as a judge and I in police work. I also remember the great times we had on the St Patrick's Day Parade floats. Also, I remember well the support that all of you gave me when Marie passed away. Shirley and I are in Arizona so know that we are thinking of you and will be in touch when we return to Michigan. I know Frank will be greatly missed by all who knew him and loved him.

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**Jim Seibert** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We had the privlage of meeting Francis O'Brien and he visited our home two or three different times. We enjoyed him emenesley. I am glad we had that privlage and I thank Dan for bringing him up. We are sorry for his loss, he will be missed. John and Freddie

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**John and Freddie Crews** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Frank volunteered with the Troy Community Center’s senior volunteers who taught computers to seniors, at the time called SeniorNet now Troy Senior Computer Learning Center. Our classes have a teacher and up to 3 coaches who’d help the students so the teacher could continue. In many ways the coach has a hard job because he must figure out what the student did wrong and fix it. Frank coached for me several times. His mood was light, jovial, giving, and willing. We appreciate having known him. On behalf of our entire group, I extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

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**Pamela M. Brady, Recording Secretary** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Frank O'Brien was a dedicated, hard working Judge, Husband, Father, and Friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

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**LELAND D. BARRINGER** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dan and Mrs O'Brien, I worked at Pontiac Municipal Golf Course as a starter. I really enjoyed seeing a mother and son sharing a good time together. I'm sorry for your family's loss. May you all find strength and peace in the GOD you know. Johnny Fladger

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**Johnny Fladger** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Frank, Dan and families: I practiced in front of your dad for over 30 years. He was a strong, firm but compassionate judge with just the right mix of Irish humor. In the fullness of time, I now find myself practicing before Dan and getting my old truck fixed by Frank. I'll keep a good thought for you all.

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**Frank Rhodes and Bobby Rhodes** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Shirley and family: Frank was a great friend and classmate from 1968. Thursday night was beer night for our class. We had a wonderful time together at U of Detroit Law school 1968. Frank will be missed and always remembered as a good fellow and dear friend. God bless all of you. Best thoughts and fortunes to all of Frank's relatives and friends. Sincerely Terry and Diane Jolly

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**Terence K. Jolly** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Dear Shirley and family: Ann and I just learned of Frank's passing, and we extend our condolences to you and your family. We will all miss Frank's laughter and engaging smile. As a judge, he had a sense of fair play and a willingness to work with counsel-that too will be missed. Our prayers are with you and your family. Ann and Bill Booth

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**Ann & Bill Booth** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I have just learned of Judge O'Brien's recent passing. I am so very sorry for the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. May you find peace in the warmth of your family and friends. He will be fondly remembered by so many. -Robyn Frankel

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**Robyn Frankel** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ To Shirley and family, My deepest sympathy to all of you. I will always remember fondly the times that I was able to spend with the O'Briens during my working days at the Oakland County Bar Association. May God grant you peace and understanding during this period of adjustment to life without Frank. You will be in my prayers.

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**Nancy Galloway** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ To the O'Brien Family, Our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your dear husband and father. You are all in our daily prayers as you go through this difficult time. May you have the comfort that he is at a better place. May God bless your entire family and give you the strength to deal with this loss. Our deepest sympathy to the family, The Persaud Family

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**Dr. Persaud** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To the O'Brien family, He was good as a Judge and even better as a person. Always ready with a friendly greeting with a smile on his face. He will be missed and hopefully we will all see him again in a better place.

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**Don Dillon** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ To the O'Brien family: When I think of Judge O'Brien or "FX" as we called him, it brings a smile to my face. I will always remember appearing before him.

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**Marilyn D Walker** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Dan and your family: I am out of town, but learned a few minutes ago from an Oakland County Bar email of the death of your father. I am saddened by the news and want to express my condolence to you and your family. I appeared before your father many times. I learned the importance of always being prepared with the facts and law, and always being ready to answer questions from all perspectives. Judge O'Brien was a jurist who took his job seriously and made lawyers think earnestly and thoughtfully about whatever positions they were called on to advocate. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Andy Broder

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**Andy Broder** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Frank and the family of the honorable Francis O'Brien, please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your father, he will remain in your hearts forever. Jack Marwil.

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**jack marwil** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ Dear Shirley and Family, Our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your dear husband, Frank. It is a hard thing to lose someone we love- please know you, Shirley, and the family are in our daily prayers as you go through this difficult time. May God's love sustain, comfort and strengthen you in this time of great sorrow. Our deepest sympathy. Irene and Bob Guymer

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**Irene and Bob Guymer** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Shirley, My condolences to you, your children and all your family. I have great memories of Judge O'Brien and the times I spent in his courtroom. I will keep him and you in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, John Slevin

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**John R. Slevin** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ I graduated law school in 1984 and will never forget my experiences learning how to practice law before Judge O'Brien, I culminated my experience with a complicated commercial trial shortly before he retired. He was a great man and will be long remembered by myself and, I am sure, other members of the Bar. Elizabeth A. Silverman

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**Elizabeth Silverman** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ May The Good and Gracious Lord cover this precious family with His peace, that passes all understanding, as they stand together at this difficult time. Frank O'Brien will continue to live through the collective memories shared by family members and friends.

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**Judyann Zerbo** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ My prayers and thoughts are with the family at this time. Having only met Judge O'Brien a few times, I was always impressed with the fact that he actually remembered who I was! He was so helpful and active in the Kiwanis Club of Royal Oak, we will always remember him and all he has done for us and for the community. God bless you. Cheryl Kilinski, 2011 President, Kiwanis Club of Royal Oak

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**Cheryl Kilinski** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ It is with great sadness that this great man who my Mom and I had the wonderful pleasure of knowing, will no longer be with us. I was so blessed, as was my Mom, to have been adopted into their wonderful family via his daughter, Colleen. The memories are so rich of all the occasions we were together, they simply cannot fill this limited space. My thoughts and prayers are with Shirley, my dear adopted family and all who had the pleasure of knowing this man and his wonderful family who touched all our lives. There may be an empty seat now at the table now that Judge O'Brien is gone, but he will remain in our hearts and lives forever. God Bless and Much Love, Liz Perinoff

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**Liz Perinoff** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Blessed Memories of your husband, dad, and granddad. Judge O'Brien was good to me in my life and gave me work very early in my career. Many fond memories of him down at the shop in Ferndale. Dan and Frank, I know you the best. Though I have met almost all of the O'Brien kids over the years. Rest in Peace Your Honor

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**Michael L. Steinberg, Esq** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Our dear friends, You are such a blessing to our family. We love you with all our hearts. Please know we are praying for you. The Neff family

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**Jesica Neff-Specer** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I am so saddened by the loss of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Frank was a true patriarch of a wonderful family. He led by his faith and was a wonderful example of a father to his children. His sense of humor always made me laugh...especially when I would see family pictures of him dressing up with his wife, Shirley to be part of various celebrations. My heart and prayers are with you Shirley, Frank, Colleen, Daniel, Erin and Kevin. May God Bless all of you and hold you in the palm of His Hand during this time.

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**Jeanette LaClair Dalloo** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ I was shocked and so sorry to hear of frank's death--I guess we are never ready to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Anna Dugan

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**Anna Dugan** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Frank O'Brien was a stand up guy you could always count on. I always looked forward to seeing him and receiving a great pat on the shoulder. He will surely be missed.

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**Albert Holtz** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ The Honorable Francis X. O'Brien was just that. The many times I appeared before him or listened to his rulings for fellow attorneys, he always listened intently, questioned all, and to me, made the right, no nonsense ruling, whether we liked his style and decision or not. He was a rare gem. He followed the law and did what was right. Off the bench, he was the consummate, friendly gentleman. I have truly missed him since he retired. My sincere sympathies to his family.

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**Steve Stelmach** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Franks' patience and insight as a judge helped to keep my family intact some 32 years ago. He has been in my prayers since then and will continue to hold a place there. Proud to have known him.*

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**Dave Flynn** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *We pray for the grace to trust in the infinite wisdom of God who called our beloved Brother Knight Francis. He will be remembered daily in a special Mass for the repose of the souls of all deceased Brother Knights at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of our Order, in New Haven, Connecticut. We extend our condolences to the family.*

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**Daniel Remeika** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Dear Shirley & Family It was with a great sense of loss when we heard of Frank's death. We know that his passing will leave a void in our hearts & but also in the hearts of all who knew him. We shall always cherish memories of the old days at St Mary's & the K of C.. Our sincere thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. Jack & Judy Bell*

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**Jack & Judy Bell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Shirley and Family, You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time and always. With love, Molly, Kevin, Kate and Abby Breitschuh*

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**Molly Breitschuh** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Writing a condolence note about Frank seems so strange. We enjoyed you as friends for over 20 years. How we loved playing dominos! It's only fitting to add an Irish quote: "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. ~From a headstone in Ireland"

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**The Hartter Family** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ May god bless you and may you find comfort in each other. The Judge, Mr. O'Brien, your Father, Uncle, Grandfather and Husbands true success is all of you and your honor and strength in family. With much love and respect to all of you, Trish Damon

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**Trish Damon** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thought and prayers are with you and your entire family at this difficult time.

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**Jim and Shari Murray** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Dear Shirley and Family, We are truly saddened by Frank's death. Frank was more than just a friend and neighbor. He was always so kind and considerate and always had something to share with us. His passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of everyone who knew him. Frank's memory will always remain deep within our hearts. If there is anything that we can do to help you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call us. We will always be here for you and your family at a moment's notice. My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you. With deepest sympathy, Ron and Wei Eschik

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**Ron and Wei Eschik** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ Our prayers and sympathy are with you at this time. Frank will be missed by us and his many neighbors in Emerald Lakes Village. I remember how he loved our "Deck and Dock "parties....and his smiling face at card club...and just sitting in the back yard looking at the lake ! Great memories... He is at peace now. God Bless, Andrea and Henry Allemon

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**Henry & Andrea Allemon** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ Our entire family sends condolences to your family at this sad time.

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**Elaine Jirkans** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM