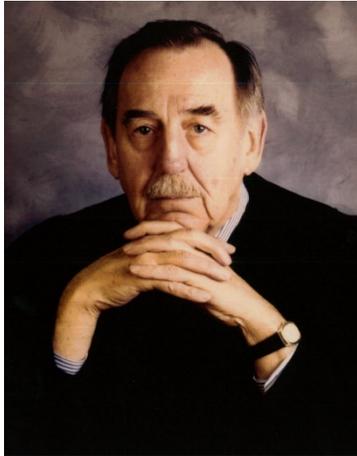




# March 21, 2018 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



## Judge John R. Perry Class of 1948

John Perry distinguished himself as a compassionate attorney and honored district judge for over 46 years.

John graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1948. He played reserve (J.V.) football but soon found out he was too small for that sport. John often recalled his school days from Woodruff Elementary School, his 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at St. Patrick School and his four years at Roosevelt High School.

Shortly after graduating, John Perry joined the United States Air Force for a two-year commitment. Following his service years, John began studying at the University of Detroit School of Law. With his 1958 law degree, John soon married and had three children. He spent the next 24 years as a practicing attorney where he earned the respect of his associates. John also organized an attorney's softball league that brought his colleagues together in a fun and special way.

In 1982, John Perry was appointed to the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court bench and served in the court's Environmental, Criminal, Traffic and Ordinance Divisions. John's fellow judges soon elected him as the Chief Presiding Judge for the District Court. For over 22 years, John Perry distinguished himself as an outstanding, compassionate and nationally recognized judge.

John was always available to mentor young attorneys who appeared before him by explaining his opinions to help them strengthen their arguments – all with the desire to improve the effectiveness of his colleagues.

On April 12, 2004, Judge Perry was killed by a hit-and-run driver while walking home, tragically ending his 22 years plus service. It was a horrible shock to his wife and three children, but it also stunned the court system.

John Perry's service to Michigan, as an attorney and district judge, had earned him state-wide and national recognition as evidenced by a proclamation on the floor of the House in Washington, D.C. by Congressman John Dingell wherein he said, "...Mr. Speaker: The State of Michigan lost one of its most important leaders, his family has lost a father and husband and many have lost a friend. It is with great sadness that we acknowledge his passing, but it is also an honor to acknowledge the important contributions he has made throughout his life. I will

miss his friendship and the State of Michigan will miss his wisdom and service on the bench.” John’s family also received personal condolences from President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. Hundreds of attorneys and judges joined the large funeral service honoring John.

John Perry’s children and grandchildren are very proud to have had a special father and grandfather.