

In Memoriam: Sid Serota

Sid Serota passed away on May 30, 2019, at the age of 94 in Boynton Beach, Florida. His graveside services were private. In 1951, he met the love of his life, Irene, and shortly thereafter they married and spent 67 lovely years together. They had three children, Jeffrey, Scott (Mary), and Ken (Rona); five grandchildren, Steven (Jennifer), Amy (Nick) Parker, Daniel (Chloe), Charlie, and Maddie; and seven great grandchildren, Emma, Lily, Samuel, Drew, Ethan, Dean, and Owen.

Sid was a World War II veteran who received both a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star after being shot in action while saving the life of his comrades. He attended DePaul Law School and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1949 and practiced law in Chicago as a sole practitioner for over 40 years concentrating in subrogation, divorce, and real estate matters. Sid was known as an honest, respectful, and competent lawyer who spent most of his time in the courthouse trying subrogation and divorce cases. He had a wonderful temperament and it was always an honor and privilege to have a case with him because he was trustworthy and a real “mensch” in his dealings with everyone. Sid always dangled his trademark unlit cigar outside the courtroom and shared his latest joke.

But most importantly, Sid was a Jew and he was proud of it. He was a member of Decalogue for years, not because Decalogue could do something for him, but because he believed in Decalogue as an organization that would do their best to protect all minorities from bigotry and would promote the American way.

Upon Sid’s death, his family asked that donations be made in his honor to the Decalogue Society of Lawyers Foundation at decaloguesociety.org/donations.

The Honorable Robert E. Gordon is an appellate court justice in the First District, 4th Division of Illinois and a Decalogue board member.