

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **Statement of Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer on the Passing of Senior District Judge William Thomas Hart**

Judge William Thomas Hart of our court died on January 17, 2023, at the age of 93. Judge Hart was born in Joliet, Illinois, and earned his law degree at Loyola University in 1951. He served in the United States Army from 1951 until 1953 and as an AUSA in the Northern District of Illinois from 1954 to 1956. He was then in private practice until 1982.

On March 11, 1982, he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He was confirmed by the Senate on April 20, 1982, and received his commission on April 21, 1982.

Judge Hart took senior status on June 1, 1996 – and I have the honor of occupying the seat he held. Judge Hart sparked my interest, and that of many others, in our court's history. He established the Court Historical Association and spearheaded its activities and focus for many years.

Judge Hart was a man of great dignity and gentle humor, and we are all honored to have worked with him. We are grateful for his service to our district and to this nation.

Judge Hart is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Catherine "Kay" (nee Motta); daughters Catherine Maher (Michael), Susan DaMario (Thomas), Julie Boesen (Peter), Sally Collins (James) and Nancy McLaughlin (Michael); seventeen grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Our hearts and prayers are with them.