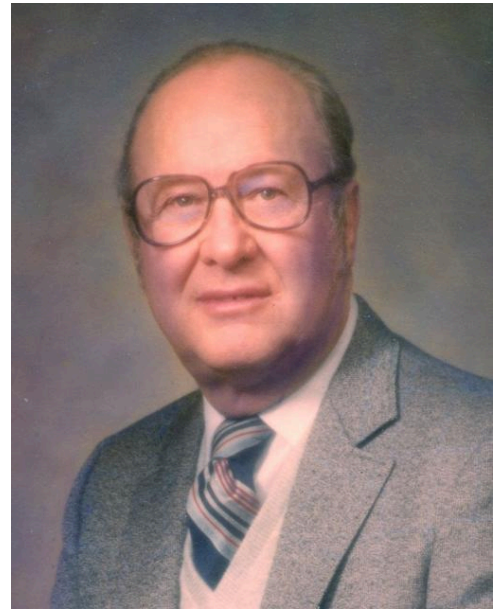


John H. Stauber

This week we are happy to name John H. Stauber as the 140th inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. John H. Stauber was nominated by Michael D. Meyers.

Probably best known in the Marshfield community for the many years he served as city attorney, John H. Stauber also contributed his many talents for the benefit of numerous organizations. Marshfield is better because of his unselfish volunteer and community service throughout his life.

John Henry Stauber was born on March 31, 1921, in Marshfield. His parents were John L. and Marie (Beining) Stauber.



John attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Purdy Junior High School, and McKinley High School where he graduated with the Class of 1938. He was a member of the National Honor Society and was salutatorian of his class. He also was president of his sophomore class.

During his senior year, Stauber was awarded an American Legion Medal, presented annually to recognize a student who excelled in athletics and attained high standards in scholastic achievements. Stauber won six letters during his three years in senior high school. The Marshfield News-Herald, reporting on that recognition, wrote, "John is held in high respect by all his teammates and classmates. Johnny, as he was known by his friends, has been termed a 'player's player' – a fine tribute to any athlete. The term implies teamwork and fellowship ahead of personal glory and acclamation."

John graduated cum laude from Notre Dame University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a major in English. In his senior year, he enlisted in the V-7 Naval Reserve Officers Training School and was commissioned an ensign at graduation in January 1943. He was assigned to the Pacific as a deck communication and gunnery officer on the assault troop ship USS President Monroe. He participated in Aleutian Islands and Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns. He was then assigned to the USS Estes, when the ship was in command of pre-invasion bombardment of Iwo Jima and Okinawa operations. In March 1946, Stauber, at age 24 was separated from the Navy.

Following his discharge, he enrolled at Marquette Law School in Milwaukee and graduated in March 1948 with a law degree. Later that year, Stauber and another young attorney, Donald Hoerl, opened a law practice in Marshfield. Stauber was elected city attorney on

April 19, 1949 – a position he held for the next 26 years. The demands of the job involved attending meetings of the city council and its various boards, commissions and committees; responding to requests for legal opinions; and writing ordinances. This left little time for private practice, but he still served as a respected defense attorney in several court cases, and the Law Office of Stauber & Hoerl was successful. In 1971, he established the Stauber, Dehn, Wynia, Kissinger and Juneau law firm. When he retired from active practice in 1998, the firm was known as Stauber, Juncer & Wolfgram.

In 1960, Stauber made a significant contribution to the city by preparing a new Municipal Code of Ordinances. The new code took three years to draft and consisted of about 400 pages containing all the general ordinances of the city. Ordinances dealing with specific matters which did not require change had been reprinted in an appendix to the new code containing 136 pages.

Stauber explained that the new code, “will render all effective ordinances of the city easily accessible.” The decimal system used to number state statutes had been adopted in numbering the provisions of the code. Stauber added that, “the revised code should form the foundation of a well-arranged code of ordinances for many years to come.”

As Stauber established his Marshfield law practice, the community had already experienced several polio outbreaks. Joining the fight against polio, Stauber accepted the chairmanship of the Marshfield March of Dimes campaign. Representing the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis he led efforts locally to raise funds each year to combat the disease. Four thousand coin cards were distributed in local schools, and donations received from local individuals and businesses yearly. Half of the money collected was retained to fund services in the area and the other half helped fund research.

Many professional and community organizations benefited from Stauber’s active participation. He served on the board of directors for Citizens National Bank and its successor, Associated Bank, and the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce. He also served as president of the Marshfield Rotary Club; exalted ruler of Marshfield Lodge No. 554 of the Elks, as well as district governor, and deputy grand exalted ruler of the national Elks organization; and among other offices, was faithful navigator and marshal of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, John Eisen Assembly. He was secretary, lector and eucharistic minister of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church and served as leader of the Webelos Den of Cub Scout Pack 280 (later 680). He also organized a city-wide election each February during annual Boy Scout Week activities, known as Scout Civic Day. Scouts were encouraged to compete for various city offices and eventually served a day “in office” shadowing those city departments.

In 1955, the Marshfield Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized Stauber as “Young Man of the Year” for his unselfish volunteer efforts and community service. Then in 1985, he was

recognized by the Marshfield Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow for his, “devotion and sense of responsibility to his home community” with the “Service Above Self Award.” Stuart Gullickson, while addressing event attendees said, “three of Stauber’s major contributions were of local service to his clients in the area, to the law profession, and as a teacher.” Fellow attorney Ed Zappen praised Stauber, for his “high degree of honor, integrity and ability.”

In later years, John volunteered his time greeting members of the community while delivering Meals on Wheels and enjoyed playing hockey. He also taught courses in probate and municipal law at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, law school.

Stauber married the former Jean Wilson on April 10, 1944. They were parents of a son, John C. Stauber, and daughter, Catherine Jean (Stauber) Klein. Jean died in 2007 and John H. Stauber on October 24, 2010.