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Biography - Aiken

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Sunnyside attorney, civic leader dies at 65

SUNNYSIDE — Noted attorney, former judge and civic leader William "Bill" Aiken died earlier this week while on vacation in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He was 65.

An articulate and widely respected attorney, Aiken is remembered for his contributions to both the community and the Yakima County Bar Association, an organization which he served as president for several years.

"Just a prince of a man. He did everything with a smile on his face and handled problems with dispatch and with the unanimity of the bar," said current Yakima Bar Association President James Scott of Selah.

"He was a good advocate, but he knew how to compromise.

"I always considered him one of the leaders of the Yakima County Bar, he was very personable and always kept the best interests of his clients and the bar in the forefront," Scott said.

Aiken was born and raised in Sunnyside and graduated from Sunnyside High School before entering the army where he served with distinction as a combat infantryman in the Philippines. After his return, he attended law school and opened a law practice in Sunnyside in 1951. While he maintained his practice, he also served as Sunnyside's police court judge in the late 1950s. He also served as the city's attorney for several years, Scott said.

Aiken was active in veteran affairs and was quietly recognized as an ex-

pert on the history and traditions of the Yakima Indian tribe, said Roger Garrison, Sunnyside attorney and long-time acquaintance.

Earlier this year, Aiken was mentioned as a possible candidate for a Yakima County Superior Court judgeship. However, after mulling the idea, he decided against it, Scott said.

"At one time he had expressed interest in Superior Court, but he felt he didn't want to leave Sunnyside . . . he was very much involved with Sunnyside," Scott said.

Aiken was concluding a three week tour of Austria and Germany when he died.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Aiken of Sunnyside; a son, Jerome Aiken of Yakima; and three

daughters, Katherine Aiken of Hayden Lake, Idaho, Mary Fishback of Yakima and Sally Fitterer of Bellevue.

Shaw & Sons Memorial Chapel, Yakima, is in charge of arrangements.

His memberships included the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Sunnyside, BPOE No. 318 of Yakima, Shrine, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Sunnyside, American Legion of Sunnyside, Masonic Lodge of Yakima, Scottish Rite Bodies, 40 et 8, Sunnyside Lions, Yakima County Bar Association, of which he served as a past president, Washington State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Washington State Guard.