



Justice D. Ormonde Ritchie'19 **(1902 – 1972)**

While in high school, D. Ormonde Ritchie was an accomplished athlete excelling in basketball and baseball. After leaving Bay Shore High School in 1919, he graduated from Washington & Lee University, received his judicial credentials from Brooklyn Law School in 1926, and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1927.

His 32 year judicial career began with a private general legal practice based in Bay Shore. At the same time he also acted as counsel to the South Side Bank of Bay Shore. In 1932, Mr. Ritchie became Law Assistant to Justice George H. Furman of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, a post held until 1938. In 1939 he served as secretary to the NYS Senate Finance Committee in Albany. In 1940 he became justice of the peace of the town of Islip, and served on that bench until 1946. He advanced to the bench of the county court in 1947 as County and Family Court Judge of Suffolk County, a position held thru 1952 when he was appointed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey to fill a vacancy on the New York State Supreme Court. Later that year he ran for, and won, a full 14 year term to this position and was reelected to a second term in 1966. After serving 20 years as a New York State Supreme Court Justice, he retired from the judicial spectrum in 1972.

Justice Ritchie was a member of many organizations including the American and Suffolk Bar Associations, the Masonic Lodge, the Lion's Club, and he was an honorary deacon in the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Bay Shore. In his spare time he enjoyed trout fishing. Shortly after retirement Justice Ritchie became ill and died of cancer at the age of 69. Upon his passing, former State Supreme Court Justice John P. Cohalan Jr. hailed D. Ormonde Ritchie as "a good friend and one of the greatest guys God ever put on earth". This white-haired, bespectacled gentleman was described as a man "who looked like a judge and who would always take pains to explain the intricacies of a case to a layman".

Justice Ritchie was survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Quinn; three daughters, Mrs. Faith Duryea of Rhinebeck, New York, Mrs. Barbara Guinta of Brightwaters, Mrs. Constance Moore of Holtsville, and currently thirteen grandchildren.

