

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
HONORABLE BENEDICT PATRICK CRUISE, deceased,**

**Case No. 14 CV 67**

**WRITTEN EULOGY AND MEMORIAL**

May it please the court and members of the Ellis County Bar:

This written eulogy and memorial, long delayed, to Benedict Patrick Cruise, a deceased member of the Ellis County Bar Association is presented in open court and for the purpose of saluting his career as both a trial lawyer in the City of Hays, Kansas and his long service as District Judge for the counties of Ellis, Russell, Logan, Gove, and Trego. Term on the bench began in 1955 and he was re-elected six times. He resigned on August 1, 1975. During his time on the bench he conducted 126 jury trials and only 8 hung juries from that. The author of this memorial had the privilege of practicing law before the Honorable Benedict P. Cruise for 19 years. This eulogy and memorial is presented in conformity with a long-standing practice of this Bar Association to memorialize the brief history of the life of one of our fellows, assign it a case number, and file it as a permanent record in the District Court, Ellis County, Kansas.

Judge Cruise's daughter Susan Boos, who at this writing is a citizen of the city of Hays, Kansas, has written an excellent summary of Judge Cruise's life from the date of his birth. To repeat that memorandum furnished by Susan would be redundant and couldn't be as well done as prepared by her and furnished to this office for use in drafting this Eulogy. The family tradition in the FBI and legal business has continued with Judge Cruise's son Ben who was an agent with the FBI, his oldest grandson Kevin

who graduated from West Point in 1982 the year of Judge Cruise's death who served as a special agent with the FBI for 20 years. His granddaughter Judy was a graduate of the school of law in Boulder, Colorado and is currently practicing in Colorado Springs, Colorado. To those interested in reading this memorial the history of Judge Cruise's early family life and his mother's effort in raising her children in Hebron, Nebraska, it is certainly noteworthy. One of Judge Cruise's brothers was an admiral in the United States Navy after graduating from the Naval Academy, another brother was a dentist practicing in Valentine, Nebraska, another brother who was an attorney and an FBI agent and one of his sisters was one of the original Navy Waves during World War II. The summary of his family background is contained in paragraph 1 of Susan's summary of Ben's life and career.

I incorporate herewith the memoranda furnished by Judge Cruise's daughter, Susan, as part of this memorial.

Your honor, I request that this eulogy and memorial be filed in the appropriate case in the clerk's office for perpetuity.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Boone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

THOMAS C. BOONE

A member of the Ellis County Bar association

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Thomas C. Boone, do hereby certify that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014, I deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Written Eulogy and Memorial, by first-class mail, here at Hays, Kansas, to:

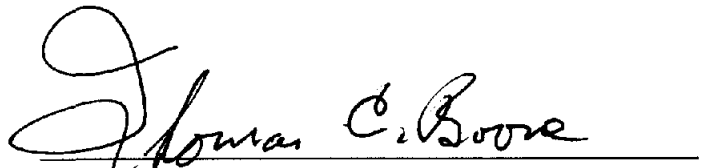
The Honorable Edward Bouker  
Chief Judge  
Ellis County District Court  
1204 Fort Street  
Hays, Kansas 67601

The Honorable Glenn Braun  
District Court Judge  
Ellis County District Court  
1204 Fort Street  
Hays, Kansas 67601

Susan Boos  
4106 Harrison Circle  
Hays, Kansas 67601

And the original to:

Clerk of the District Court  
Ellis County District Court  
1204 Fort Street  
Hays, Kansas 67601

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Boone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

THOMAS C. BOONE  
A member of the Ellis County Bar association

Benedict Patrick Cruise April 18, 1908 to October 15, 1982

The 11<sup>th</sup> of 15 children (9 boys and 6 girls) born to Viola (Beck) and Michael Cruise. Born and raised in Hebron, Nebraska. Although this was a very large and poor family, there were many distinguished careers among his brothers and sisters. One brother attended The Naval Academy at Annapolis and retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral. One brother was a dentist practicing in Valentine, Nebraska. Another brother was a lawyer and FBI agent. One of his sisters was one of the original Navy Waves during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and continued working in a government position until her retirement. Another sister was a medical technologist, and another a teacher. Each sibling felt the responsibility to help the next sibling in line to get an education and a hand up.

Attended St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, from 1926 to 1928, and graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Liberal Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1931, and the Law School of the University of Nebraska in 1933.

Became a Special Agent of the FBI under the directorship of J. Edgar Hoover, in 1934 serving until 1945. Assignments during that time were in Denver, Milwaukee, Newark, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and Kansas City.

Denver- summer of 1934

Kansas City-Sept 1934 to Dec 1937

Milwaukee- Dec 1937 to summer 1939 (where Bennie was born)

Newark- 1939 to summer 1941

Washington DC- 1941 to summer 1943 (where Susan was born)

Kansas City- 1943 to July 1945

On October 7, 1937, married Pauline Bundy of Topeka, Kansas.

2 children: Ben and Susan

Moved to Hays in 1945 to start a private general law practice. In partnership with Delmas Haney and later, Fritz Wasinger. This partnership was dissolved when he ran for office the first time in 1954.

Ran for and was elected as Judge of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District in 1954. The district at that time was 6 counties: Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis and Russell. Beginning in 1955, he was elected six times, the last time in November 1971. He resigned August 1, 1975. In his resignation letter, Judge Cruise reviewed his career on the bench. Cruise said, "I have conducted 226 jury trials, and had only eight hung juries from that number." He said, that record might reflect his attempts to "give good instructions to the jury prior to their deliberations." He was also very proud of his record of trial verdicts upheld on appeal, although I can give you no statistics on that.

He was member of St. Joseph's Church in Hays, and was an active member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus. At various times in his career in Hays, he was active in the Lions Club and served with the Boy Scouts. In May 1965, he was award the Kansas Monk Award by St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine College in Atchison, KS). The Kansas Monk Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on an alumnus by St. Benedict's.

A sidelight: Dad was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 generations in our family to be involved in law and enforcement.

Pauline's grandfather served 37 years with the City Police Dept and County Sheriff's Dept in Topeka, KS.

Her father was a lieutenant in the Detective Bureau of the Topeka Police Dept.

Dad was FBI from 1933 to 1945.

Bennie was FBI until his retirement.

His oldest son, Kevin, graduated from West Point in 1982 and in 1988 joined the FBI, resigning about a year ago, as Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Newark, NJ, office after being an agent for over 20 years.

Bennie's older daughter, Juli Wooldridge graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law, and is a lawyer currently practicing environmental law, specializing in water rights in Colorado Springs.

February 13, 2014

Hi Tom,

It was good to talk with you the other day and you have started me on quite a quest! I have found things packed in the basement that I didn't even know existed. I did find more info on dad's education that I have included on the accompanying sheet. I haven't talked with Ben this week, so I am not sure what he has and will send to you. My other concern is whether you are interested in additional personal information.

Other than the info that I included about the 5 generations of law in our family, I didn't go beyond his death with family information. Additionally, I have discovered various newspaper reports of a variety of judicial cases during his years on the bench. If you are interested in any of this information, please let me know.

Thank you for the interest in my dad and his tenure on the bench. I know he would be pleased that you are completing this for him. He was always very proud of his years on the bench and the respect and admiration from his peer lawyers. My biggest fear as a teen was bringing dishonor to him and/or his reputation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue".

Law Offices Of  
**THOMAS C. BOONE**

March 4, 2014

The Honorable Glenn Braun  
The Honorable Edward Bouker  
Ellis County Courthouse  
1204 Fort Street  
Hays, Kansas 67601

RE: Benedict Patrick Cruise Written Eulogy and Memorial

Dear Judge Braun and Judge Bouker:

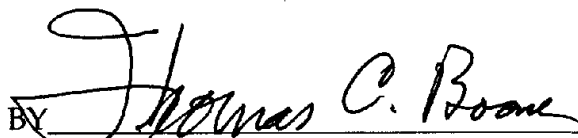
I hand you herewith my Written Eulogy and Memorial for Benedict Cruise and attachments.

It has been my pleasure to draft this particular Eulogy for Judge Cruise although not very long I believe the Memorandum of Susan's is more than adequate.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS C. BOONE

BY   
THOMAS C. BOONE

TCB/prh

CC: Clerk of the District Court  
Susan Boos

Empire Bank Building • P.O. Box 711 • Hays, Kansas 67601  
Phone: (785) 625-6551 • Fax: (785) 625-7733  
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[www.thomasclaytonboonelaw.com](http://www.thomasclaytonboonelaw.com)