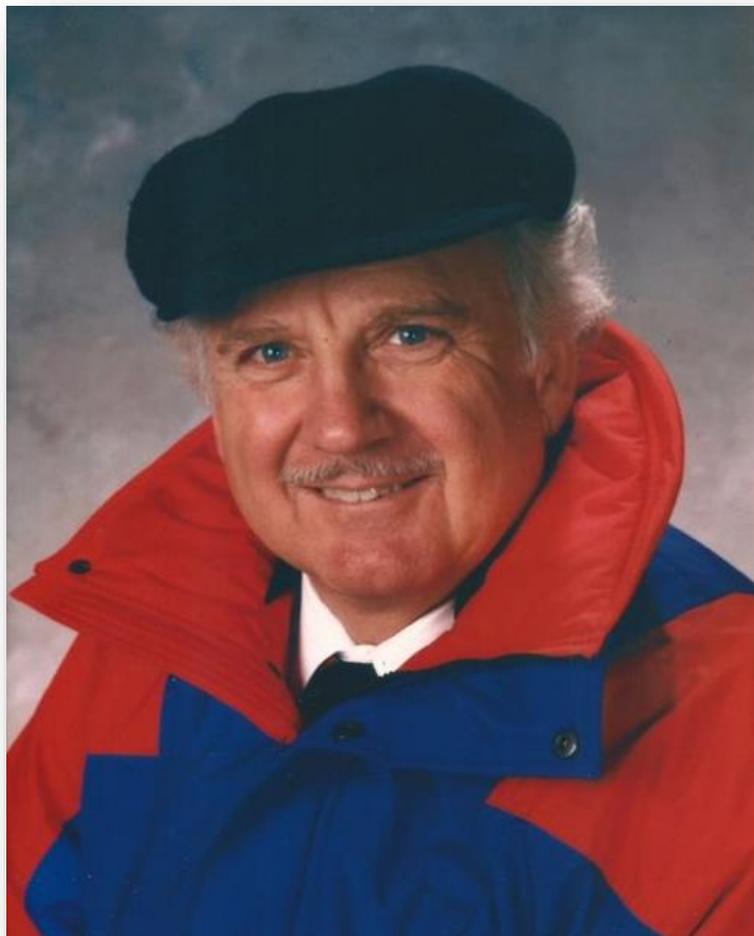


Leo O. Oxberger

Class: 1948

Inducted: 2019



He was born in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to completing college, Leo served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He received his bachelor and law degrees from Drake University in 1954 and 1957, respectively. He earned an L.L.M. degree from the University of Virginia in 1987.

By his own account, he exhibited a greater interest in dating than studying when he returned to Des Moines from California to complete high school. This priority, he notes, led to his graduating near the bottom of his North High class. He again struggled with grades during his first two years of college at Drake University, when his reserve unit was activated. He next served two years in the U.S. Air Force. His commander recognized Leo's work ethic and secured a

training position for him at Bowling Green University in administration. This motivated him to crack down academically and, upon his discharge, he returned to Des Moines in 1952, worked three jobs, and did well for his final two years of undergraduate studies and as a law student at Drake. After becoming a member of the Iowa bar in June 1957, Judge Oxberger served Iowans and Polk County as an advocate for the less advantaged, a protector of civil rights, and a public servant, first as a district judge and then on the appellate bench, where he rose to become Chief Judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Judge Oxberger became Chair of the Polk County Republican Party in 1958; and he, Robert D. Ray and Vern Lawyer forged a lifelong bond of friendship and public service. This led to Ray's election as Iowa Governor and Ray's appointment of Oxberger to the Iowa bench in 1969. Over the years, the Iowa Crime Commission, Polk County Legal Aid Society, Iowa Legal Services Advisory Commission, and the Polk County, Iowa, and American Bar Associations recognized Judge Oxberger for his leadership and contributions.

Judge Oxberger is an avid and accomplished sailor.

Leo Oxberger is a senior judge of the [Fifth District](#) of [Iowa](#). He was first appointed to this court in [March 1969](#). He retired as a judge on March 1, 1994 after a stint on the [Iowa Court of Appeals](#), and assumed [senior status](#). He continued in this role until July 2010.

- **1994-2010:** Senior Judge, [Fifth District](#)
- **1978-1994:** Chief Judge, [Iowa Court of Appeals](#)
- **1976-1978:** Judge, [Iowa Court of Appeals](#)
- **1969-1976:** Judge, [Fifth District](#)
- **1958-1962:** Republican Party Chairman, [Polk County](#)
- **1957-1969:** Attorney, Private Practice

Awards and Associations

- Iowa Crime Commission
- Polk County Legal Aid Society
- Iowa Legal Services Advisory Committee
- Polk County Bar Association
- Iowa State Bar Association
- American Bar Association