

CROSSED THE BAR

Charles Roemler Kinnaird

Charles Roemler Kinnaird passed away in Savannah, Ga., on March 5, 2021, after a short illness. Charlie was born to Wayne Davis Kinnaird and Marjorie Roemler in Indianapolis, Ind., on July 21, 1932. He was a reserve officer in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps while attending Princeton University and served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1958. He was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Norfolk, Va. He underwent flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and earned his wings in Corpus Christi. Charlie graduated from Princeton with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954.

Charlie married Susan Wiltshire Stempfel on May 25, 1955. The two originally met in kindergarten, but Susan moved to Nashville, Tenn., at the age of nine. The two reconnected, however, after Susan had an ill-fated debutante ball date and encountered Charlie by chance when he rounded a corner in his dress whites.

After getting married, Charlie attended Harvard University and graduated cum laude from Harvard with a law degree in 1961. That same year, the couple relocated to Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., and began raising a family. Charles was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1962.

He specialized in business and corporate law, in addition to elder law, healthcare law and estate planning. He was a partner at his own firm and practiced law for other firms as well.

Charlie loved Charlevoix and the Belvedere Club. His family started coming to the Belvedere in 1910, originally at cottage #233. His grandfather, Charles Roemler, served the club as President from 1939-1943. He and Susan purchased #211 in 1961 and the family has spent summers there ever since.

Charlie's own contribution to the Belvedere Club are immeasurable. He served for many years on the legal committee and the Board of Trustees. He helped a number of families with cottage succession and estate planning over the years. Dan Hales, who served with Charlie for many years on the Board and legal committee said, "He was a very thoughtful, accurate and reasoned lawyer with his clients, partners, and members of the Detroit legal community, practicing with respect and skills to lead a "big firm: practice." You meet only a few of his ability and reputation in a lifetime of practice. In our discussions, I was often taken back to his depth of understanding of legal principles at hand and analytical discipline suggestive of the early days of law school. And what fun to tackle either a law problem or fishing problem with Charlie. He was a great husband, Dad and close friend to many at the Club while generously giving to us his time as a member of the board. He will be greatly missed."

Charlie is survived by his wife of 66 years, Susan, in addition to a daughter, Christine of Casper, Wyo.; sons James of Grosse Pointe Woods; Robert of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Edward of Chapel Hill, N.C.; and Keith of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He is further survived by nine grandchildren.

Burial and memorial services are planned for a later date.