

ADVERTISING

Casa de la Noche
San Miguel de Allende
Situated in San Miguel de Alle...

Best Western Majestic
Mexico City
Located in the heart of Mexico...



Mobile | Newsletters | RSS | Subscribe | Subscriber services

Welcome | Log in | Log out | Contact/Help

Thursday, September 18, 2014 | TRAFFIC | 62°F

Follow us:

The Seattle Times
Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes

Search

Search

Advanced Search | Events & Venues | Obituaries

Home | News | Business & Tech | Sports | Entertainment | Food | Living | Homes | Jobs | Autos | Weekly Ads
Travel | Opinion | Shopping

Saturday, July 6, 2002 - Page updated at 12:00 AM

E-mail article Print

GOP activist James Munn never lost case in law career

By **Paysha Stockton**
Seattle Times staff reporter

James Munn, a lawyer and prominent Republican organizer, loved to tell the tale of his 12 criminal cases.

As a King County prosecuting attorney in the early 1960s, he won six of six murder trials. Later, in private practice, he successfully defended six of six murder suspects. Then he called his criminal-law career quits.

"He went 12 for 12 in criminal law and decided he didn't have to do that anymore," said his son John Munn.

Mr. Munn, 79, died Sunday (June 30) of a heart attack. A Seattle resident for 40 years, he was active in Republican politics and local service organizations. He worked with many prominent politicians, including President Reagan, the first President Bush and U.S. Rep. Jennifer Dunn of Bellevue.

Kirby Wilbur, a KVI radio-show host, met Mr. Munn as a volunteering high-school student. In 1980, Wilbur headed the state's Young Republicans while Mr. Munn led the state's Reagan campaign committee.

Many party higher-ups thought kids were good only for stuffing envelopes and getting coffee, Wilbur said. But Mr. Munn always saw potential in the youths.

"Jim was very encouraging to young people in the party," Wilbur said. He gave them responsibility and allowed them to prove themselves. "He would ask our advice and opinion on things, and he meant it."

Mr. Munn was born in Deadwood, S.D., in 1923. He graduated from Piedmont High School in California and then joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942.

He was a combat pilot until 1944, when his bomber was shot down and he was captured by the German army. A prisoner of war until 1945, he was later decorated with the Air Medal and Purple Heart.

He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1948, and served in the Korean War as an intelligence officer, winning a Bronze Star.

He fully retired from the military, after serving in the reserves, as a lieutenant colonel in 1973.

He married Marjory in 1953 on Okinawa, Japan.

Mr. Munn's second career began after he graduated from Gonzaga Law School and moved to Seattle in 1962. He started in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and then joined the firm of Kargianis & Austin. In 1981, he started a business-consulting practice.

He continued to practice law until his death.



ADVERTISING

See how we're improving worker safety in Bangladesh

[Learn More](#)

<p>Casa de la Noche San Miguel de Allende</p> <p>from \$119</p>
<p>Best Western Majestic Mexico City</p> <p>from \$92</p>

Most read | Most e-mailed

- 2 to retire from Microsoft board; more layoff notices coming
- Pete Carroll appears as a guest barista | Picture This
- The rise and fall of Mars Hill Church
- Rocky start for state's pot stores — only one in Seattle
- King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn pleads guilty to DUI
- 9th Circuit tosses child-porn evidence, cites Navy snooping
- Former dentist takes cue from lifelong passion for pool
- Mariners unleash fireworks in 13-2 victory
- Huskies' Kasen Williams off to slow start
- Sounders win 4th U.S. Open Cup

Mr. Munn was active in state and national Republican politics, serving as delegate or alternate to the national convention for 20 years.

[Most viewed images](#) ▶

John Munn remembers the calls from the White House operator asking, "Please hold for the president." Reagan. Republican Sen. Slade Gorton and Democratic Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson were regular callers.

In 1966, Mr. Munn ran unsuccessfully against Brock Adams for Congress. (They later became friends.) It was his only campaign.

"He was behind the scenes," John Munn said. "He wasn't in the limelight; he didn't really crave it. He didn't mind being behind the scenes and having folks call him for advice."

Mr. Munn was known for that advice, friends said.

Family friend Eamonn Noonan said the attorney was always willing to look over business documents and give free legal advice.

"He never charged me for anything," he said. "He had a very big heart. He was always there."

Wilbur said Mr. Munn was a straight shooter, a rarity in politics.

"Jim was always the type of guy I could go to in politics for honest advice or help," Wilbur said. "He didn't play games. He was a man of principle.

"He was truly about what was best and not what promoted him."

Mr. Munn is survived by his wife, Marjory; daughter, Susan Willden; sons, Kirk, John and Rob; and grandchildren, Shawna, Nathan, Heather, Ashley and Mallie. A memorial service and reception will be held at 11 a.m. next Saturday at the First Free Methodist Church on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle.

ADVERTISING



<p>Casa de la Noche <i>San Miguel de Allende</i></p> <p>from \$119</p>
<p>Best Western Majestic <i>Mexico City</i></p> <p>from \$92</p>



Get home delivery today!

ADVERTISING

<p>Casa de la Noche</p> <p><i>San Miguel de Allende</i> <i>Situated in San Miguel de Allende, this bed & breakfast is close to A...</i></p>	<p>Best Western Majestic</p> <p><i>Mexico City</i> <i>Located in the heart of Mexico City, this hotel is steps from Zoc...</i></p>
--	---

SITE MAP [Home](#) [Local](#) [Nation/World](#) [Business/Tech](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Living](#) [Travel](#) [Opinion](#)
[Obituaries](#) [Extras](#) [Forums](#)

CONTACT/HELP

- Site feedback/questions
- Frequently asked questions
- Home delivery issues
- Send us news tips
- Send letters to the editor
- Submit event listings
- Request corrections
- Newsroom contacts
- Social media

CONNECT

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google+
- Mobile site
- Mobile apps
- Low-graphic site
- Newsletters
- RSS
- Today's News Index

ADVERTISING

- Advertise with us
- Digital advertising
- Classifieds
- Death notices
- Job listings
- Auto listings
- Real Estate listings
- Rental listings

COMPANY

- About us
- Employment
- Historical archives
- Pulitzer prizes
- Seattle Times store
- Purchase photos
- Permissions
- Newspapers In Education

Report malware

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

- Subscribe
- Manage subscription
- Temporary stops
- Make a payment
- Print Replica



Today's front page
(PDF)

The Seattle Times

The Seattle Times Network: seattletimes.com | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Personals](#)

Copyright ©2014The Seattle Times | [Advertise with us](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)