



## Circuit Judge Lockett

February 11, 1942 - September 10, 2013

### Obituary of Circuit Judge Lockett

Circuit Judge Jerry Lockett died September the 10, 2013 at home. He was born in Cocoa, Florida on February 11, 1942. He moved to Leesburg in 1949 when he was eight years old. He is survived by his wife Ruth Knowles Lockett, and daughters Elizabeth Lockett Byrne and son-in-law Jason Byrne of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and Catherine Lockett of Tavares, Florida and mother-in-law Virginia Knowles. He was predeceased by his parents Norwood and Ruth A. Lockett of Leesburg, FL. Judge Lockett is probably best remembered for his no nonsense approach in the courtroom and his desire to see justice done which earned him the nick name "Lock 'em up Lockett." Some of his more high profile cases were the seven first degree murder trials that he presided over, including the infamous "vampire murders", and the James Duckett case. Judge Lockett attended Leesburg High through the tenth grade and then graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in 1959. He received his B.S. at the United States Naval Academy in 1963. He was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1963 " 1967. During this time he also went to the U.S. Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island in 1964 and served in Vietnam in 1966. He received his Law degree from the University of Florida in 1969 and his LL.M in law from Columbia Law School in 1974. Judge Lockett was the Chief Public Defender of the Fifth Judicial Circuit from 1981 " 1983. In 1984 he was appointed to the bench and was a Circuit judge for the 5th Judicial Circuit

from 1984 until 1989. He then resigned and became a partner in Lockett and Blair. In 1991 he was re-appointed as a circuit judge. He retired in 2003. He is the only circuit judge in Florida to be appointed as a circuit judge twice by two different governors. Judge Lockett was the Assistant Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford Connecticut from 1971 -73. He then went on to become an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi Law School in Oxford, Mississippi from 1974 until 1977. He was in the general practice of law in Tampa with the Holland and Knight Law Firm for several years, and also in the general practice of law for several years when he moved back to Leesburg in 1977. Judge Lockett was active in many organizations in Lake County. He was a founding member of the Leesburg Girls' Soccer Club and the Boys and Girls Club of Lake and Sumter Counties and received the Man and Youth Award in 1986. He was also a board member of the Silver Lake Country Club, a member of the noontime Kiwanis, and Lake County Bar Association.

## Services

A memorial service for the celebration of the life of Jerry Lockett will be at the Leesburg Boat Club, 31 Dozier Circle, Leesburg, Florida on Friday, September 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## Memorial Donations

Memorials can be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Lake and Sumter Counties, P.O. Box 896179, Leesburg, Florida 34789, The Leesburg Public Library, 100 East Main Street, Leesburg, FL 34748, or the Children's

Advocacy Center of Lake County, 300 South Canal Street, Leesburg, FL  
34748.

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ *My deepest condolences to the Lockett Family. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories you've shared with Jerry and also in the promise found at John 5:28,29 where we are assured that we will be able to see our dear loved one again. May the God of All Comfort, comfort through this very difficult and sad time. Sending warm thoughts to your family.*

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**Kelly** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ *It was my honor and privilege to have worked for and been associated with this great judge and proud veteran.*

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**Steve Corbett LCSO Capt. (Retired)** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *He was a legend in his own time and touched so many lives. There is definitely a void that will never be filled.*

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**Brenda Spradlin** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *Dear Ruth, Words cannot express our profound sorrow with the passing of Judge Lockett. He was loved and well respected by all those fortunate enough to know him. We send our deepest sympathy to you and our warm personal regards to your family. We will miss him.*

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**Elaine and Louie Advanced Hearing Group** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Judge Lockett was Iron Man to those of us who worked for him and with him. He was one of a kind and will be missed. I considered him a true friend. My prayers go out to Ruth Liz and Cat.

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**Steve Greene Lake County Bailiff's Office Retired** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Ruth, and the others in your family. I have always been so proud of Jerry's position as Cercuit Judge. He was a classmate and a good friend at L.H.S. I'm sorry he had to leave you so soon. May you always remember he was a cherished friend to so many, with a wonderful sense of humor.

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**Karen Walker** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Ruth and family, So very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Mary Sue Seng** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Ah, Ruth, so sorry that Jerry has left you so early in life. Please accept my thoughts and prayers and regret that I cannot join you for the memorial service. In His Name, Carlyn

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**Carlyn Langell (formerly Clendinen)** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I have many great memories of my father and the Judge from the past. I especially loved his laugh. He will truly be missed. Your family are in our prayers.

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**Brian Brooks** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *Our deepest condolences to the family of Judge Lockett. He will be greatly missed as he was such a great asset to his community and friends.*

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**Al & Linda Gussler** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *My prayers are with you Ruth, Elizibeth and Cahterine. Jerry was a great friend from our young years in the hood. and thereafter. Jerry, thank you for your service to our country and our community, and for being a friend to so many. Your wit and humor will be missed. May your seas be calm.*

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**john o'kelley** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Almost one of a kind! He will be missed! My thoughts and prayers are with the whole extended family and friends.*

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**Bill Hayes** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *So sorry to read of Jerry's passing. I remember his great sense of humor. So proud of our 1959 classmate that made such a positive impact on our world. RIP.*

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**Jackie Moore Keller** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *There are no words to express the sorrow of losing a husband, father amd friend. Know our thoughts and hearts are with yoh.*

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**Gary and. Vicki Mock** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Jerry was loved by many. We were very sorry to hear of your lose.  
We will keep your family in our prayers.

Roger & Denice Rice - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Thank you for your service. Prayers to all your family. RIP

DMN - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Deepest sympathy to the family of Jerry and those who were close  
friends. A Class of 1959 member Barbara

Barbara Oberholtzer Goolsby - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Circuit Judge Lockett

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM