



JOSEPH SOLIEN

October 4, 2009

Obituary of JOSEPH SOLIEN

Solien, Joseph H., 83 of Leesburg, Florida died Sunday, October 4, 2009. Survived by his wife of 56 years, Luanne; his daughters, Barbara Richards and Susan Kicklighter (Kim); and grandchildren, Katie and Kyle Kicklighter. Predeceased by daughter, Laura and son, Stephen. Mr. Solien was with the National Labor Relations Board from 1948 to 1993 and was the Director in the St. Louis area from 1967 until his retirement in 1993. He moved to Florida in 2000.

Services

A private memorial mass at St. Mary of the Lakes in Eustis and a memorial gathering will be held in Scottish Highlands Recreational Building on October 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Tribute Wall



“ JOSEPH SOLIEN

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Solien family: It is unclear to me that there are any labor/management relations attorneys in the St. Louis Metropolitan area who have not been influenced by Joe Solien. He was our graduate education. There was no one else like him. He was more demanding than any other boss we had before or since and while none of us appreciated it while he was our boss, we have all relied on what he taught us ever since. May he rest in peace. Tanja van der Horst Schwendinger (NLRB: 1972-1976)*

tatjana van der Horst Schwendinger - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MW

I come here far too many years too late to write heartfelt words to commemorate Joseph Solien. I see only one person has beaten me to this miserable task, perhaps in reflection of how loathsome he was when he walked the Earth. (This reality is suggested by the other commenter, who praised Mr Solien for his “tough love,” often a sign of someone just being a devoted asshole.) However he might exist only as compost today, I will state here with confidence that he was a piece of shit long before he passed.

My parents, including my father—who worked under Mr Solien at the NLRB in St Louis for many years (and who died in 2009 as well)—brought up his name in many unhappy conversations during my youth. At that time, my father was a successful and well-regarded labor attorney for whom Mr Solien had it in; it was under his charge that my father was demoted, forever changing the trajectory of our family of five children and helping create immense emotional stress for my parents. When I mentioned to my mother just now that I saw a letter with Mr Solien’s name, she remarked that he was a “monster,” and this coming from a devout Catholic who sees what good there is in everyone, even pieces of utter trash.

Seeing the letter led me to looking online to see, happily, that Mr Solien was dead. I have heard it’s unkind to speak ill of the dead, but it’s the best I can do since I’m unable to meet Mr Solien in person to share my feelings.

When my father died, the line of mourners approaching the casket stretched long for a couple hours. He was famously learned, hilarious, generous, and genius among an extraordinarily large group of friends, including many of his Labor Board colleagues. I highly doubt Mr Solien could hold a candle to my father or his honor, assuming he, as Jesus said his followers would be, known by his actions. May he rest in eternal hell; he needn’t change his address.

Martin Witte - November 25, 2025 at 08:24 PM