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Celebrating THE LIFE OF



WAYNE A. GRUBER
 November 18, 1949 - August 31, 2026



"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." — 2 Timothy 4:7

The Honorable Wayne A. Gruber, a longtime Arkansas attorney, judge and public servant, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family.

Born in New Jersey, Wayne made Arkansas his beloved home. He practiced law for 20 years before being elected Pulaski County District Judge in 2001, a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 2024. During his career; he served as President of the Pulaski County Bar Association and the Arkansas District Judges' Council and was recognized multiple times as District Judge of the Year. He was also instrumental in establishing the Pulaski County District Court DWI/Sobriety Court Program. Wayne's commitment to service extended to his country. A veteran of the United States Air Force and the Arkansas National Guard, he served as a Judge Advocate General until he retired from the Air Guard. In 2024, he and his wife, Judge Rita W. Gruber, were named Distinguished Alumni of the Year by the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law.

While Wayne had many more professional accomplishments, those who know him best will remember the man behind the robe. He was warm, outgoing and genuinely interested in people. He had an extraordinary ability to make everyone he met feel like a lifelong friend. He loved to run, completing numerous marathons and enjoyed traveling to favorite places, such as Seagrove Beach, Florida.

Wayne will be remembered for his service, his faith, his humor, his friendship and his enormous love for his family. His legacy lives not only in the Arkansas legal community but in the many lives he touched along the way.

He is survived by his wife Rita; their children, Regan and Will; and their grandchildren, Grant, Paige, Thatcher, and Allie Drew. He is preceded in death by his parents Ingram and Ruth Gruber; and his siblings, Bruce Gruber and Doris Bardsley.

His Memorial Service is being held on Friday, September 11, 2026 at 11AM with a Visitation & Reception to follow at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1922 Topf Rd. North Little Rock, AR 72116.

Any memorial gift should be directed to either LUMC or Friendly Chapel, 116 Pine St, North Little Rock, AR 72114.