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John Muller Sr.: Family, law made life worthwhile

June 5, 2007

BY JOE ROSSITER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A passion for law and devotion to family were guiding forces in the life of John Muller Sr.

The father of six and founder of the law firm Muller, Muller, Richmond, Harms, Myers & Sgroi, Mr. Muller died Friday at his home in Commerce Township after a 2 1/2-year battle with lymphoma. He was 72.

"He was a good businessman and a better father who was extremely devoted to his family," said his oldest son and a member of the law firm, John Muller. "His lifelong ambition was to become a lawyer. The only thing that made him happier was his family."

From its humble beginnings in 1961 as a one-room office above a shoe store in Birmingham, Mr. Muller helped the firm grow through dedication and ambition.

It specializes in creditors' rights and commercial transactions. In addition to Birmingham, offices are in Grand Rapids and Traverse City.

"He was a take-charge kind of guy who was driven by family values," said Steve Harms, a longtime partner with the firm. "His ethical standards were very high, and he always played by the rules."

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Muller graduated from Pershing High School in 1950. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Detroit in 1954 and 1958. In between degrees, he married Lucy Pando.

His interests included playing saxophone, listening to big band music and entertaining his grandkids.

In addition to his wife and son, survivors include sons Michael, Douglas and Richard; daughters Barbara Muller-Wilson and Christina Muller, and 14 grandchildren.

A funeral mass is at 10:30 a.m. today at St. Fabian Catholic Church, 32200 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills. Visitation will precede the mass at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Contact **JOE ROSSITER** at jrossiter@freepress.com.

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John Muller Sr.

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