



**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

Special Session in Honor of

John R. Gibson

**Member of this Court
March 9, 1982 - January 26, 2011**

**October 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

**Courtroom 5A
Warren E. Burger Federal Building
316 North Robert Street, Fifth Floor
St. Paul, Minnesota**

**Reception immediately following
in the Jury Assembly Room, First Floor**

MEMBERS
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

The Honorable William Jay Riley, Chief Judge

The Honorable Roger L. Wollman

The Honorable James B. Loken

The Honorable Diana E. Murphy

The Honorable Kermit E. Bye

The Honorable Lavenski R. Smith

The Honorable Steven M. Colloton

The Honorable Raymond W. Gruender

The Honorable Duane Benton

The Honorable Bobby E. Shepherd

The Honorable Jane Kelly

The Honorable Myron H. Bright

The Honorable Pasco M. Bowman II

The Honorable C. Arlen Beam

The Honorable Michael J. Melloy

PROGRAM

Presiding:

The Honorable William Jay Riley,
Chief Judge

Speakers:

The Honorable Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.

The Honorable Diana E. Murphy

Ms. Jeanne Gibson Sullivan,
Daughter of Judge Gibson

The Honorable Roger L. Wollman

Silence & Closing Remarks:

The Honorable William Jay Riley,
Chief Judge

JOHN R. GIBSON

Judge John R. Gibson, our esteemed colleague and friend, died on April 19, 2014, in Reading, Massachusetts, where he had been living since his retirement from the court in January 2011.

Judge Gibson was born on December 20, 1925, in Springfield, Missouri. Following his 1944-1946 service with the United States Army, he returned to his native state and received both his undergraduate degree (Phi Beta Kappa) and his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He married Mary Elizabeth Vaughn, and the two moved to Kansas City, Missouri, in 1952, where he joined the firm Morrison, Hecker, Curtis, Kuder & Parrish, achieving partnership status in 1957.

Judge Gibson's reputation as an outstanding trial and appellate lawyer led to his presidency of both the Kansas City Bar Association and the Missouri Bar. In addition to these leadership positions and his other law-related activities, he served as chair of the Drafting Committee of the Jackson County Charter Commission and, by gubernatorial appointment, to a 1973-1977 term as a member of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners.

Judge Gibson was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, where he served from September of 1981 to March 30, 1982, when he took his seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Following his assumption of senior status on January 1, 1994, Judge Gibson's reputation as an outstanding jurist

resulted in his being invited to serve as a visiting judge in eight of the regional courts of appeals.

As noted in his obituary in the *Washington Post*, Judge Gibson was known for his integrity and fairness. His career as an appellate judge was marked by his craftsmanship and his collegiality. His calm, unflappable demeanor and his unfailing good humor made him a delightful colleague and companion. His opinions covered a wide range of issues and were models of carefully reasoned analysis and clarity of expression. Although conservative by nature, he wore no ideological blinders. He approached each case on the basis of its facts and without any preconceived view of how it should be decided. His respect for the court as an institution was matched by his respect for counsel and for the parties they represented. He was a serious person, but he also possessed a quiet, understated sense of humor, one that was never expressed at the expense of litigants or their counsel.

Judge Gibson's world view was shaped not only by his military service and his career in the practice, but also by his lifelong love of reading, which gave him a vast knowledge of history in general and of military history in particular. He was especially well-versed in Civil War history.

Judge Gibson had a well-rounded personality, one that recognized that there is more to life than mere work alone, and thus he lived life to the fullest, as reflected in the professional-quality underwater photographs he took on his scuba diving trips with Mary Liz prior to her untimely death in August 1985, as well as by his interest

in cycling, both as an individual participant and as a three-time observer of the Tour de France race.

Judge Gibson is survived by his daughter Jeanne Gibson Sullivan, her husband Bill Sullivan and their sons Connor and Luke; his son Robert Gibson; his brother Harry Gibson and his wife Jane; his stepdaughter Holly Larrison Mills, her husband Will Mills and her son Sam Babler; and his stepdaughter Catherine Larrison.

Judge Gibson was respected by all who knew him. His quiet grace and sense of dignity made him a treasured colleague and friend. Our lives were enriched by his presence among us, and our memories of our service with him will forever remain with us.

