



Sally Ireland Robertson

July 18, 1948 - August 14, 2022

Hon. Sally Ireland Robertson, age 74, of Wadena, Minnesota, died on August 14, surrounded by family. Born on July 18, 1948, in Hamilton, Ohio, she was the daughter of Robert E. and L. Gail (Pratt) Ireland. A 1966 graduate of Taft High School, she earned her BA in English from Denison University (1970), MA from Miami University of Ohio (1972), and JD from the University of New Mexico School of Law (1979).

Sally married James Mitchell Robertson on December 12, 1970, in Hamilton. Life together brought adventures in Oxford, Ohio; Tucson; Albuquerque; Barcelona, Spain; and Pine Ridge, South Dakota, before settling at what she lovingly called Wildrose Farm, north of Wadena. They have lived near Wadena since 1981.

As a young attorney, Sally practiced law at Dakota Plains Legal Services, a legal non-profit on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, before joining Kennedy and Nervig Law Firm in Wadena. Governor Carlson appointed her to the bench in 1996. Sally was among the first female judges of the ten-county Seventh Judicial District, with chambers in Long Prairie, Detroit Lakes, and Wadena, and she served until her retirement in 2018. Sally believed due process was the cornerstone of American democracy. She cared deeply about people's experiences in the legal system and that justice was served with dignity and humanity, despite often difficult circumstances.

Sally was committed to community and professional service as a member of the Wadena Rotary Club prior to her judicial appointment; in the Minnesota Bar Association; Minnesota District Judges Association; National Judicial College; and as a longtime supporter of arts, humanities, and conservation organizations, including the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer; New York Mills Regional Cultural Center; Partners for a Healthy Wadena Region; Whiskey Creek Film Festival; and Minnesota Public Radio. She loved her family and community and found joy in the wonders of nature, the arts, music and poetry.

Sally was diagnosed with two relentless neurodegenerative conditions, ALS and FTD, beginning in 2020. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, James Robertson; son

Colin Robertson and his wife Monica (Reno, NV); daughter Caitlin (Northfield, MN); grandchildren Tate, Auden, and Lucy Robertson and Juniper Ramsey; brother Tom Ireland, his wife Kathleen, and family; sister Kathleen Russell and family; beloved Robertson brothers- and sisters-in-law and their children, and extended Ireland, Iron Cloud, Russell, and Pratt families on whom she enjoyed keeping an encyclopedic knowledge. She counted many friends and colleagues as family. Sally's BELOVED parents, Bob and Gail, preceded her in death.

A celebration of Sally's life will take place Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Maslowski Wellness Center, 17 5th St. SW, in Wadena, with light food and music from 4-8p.m. and a special time for remembrances and stories at 5 p.m..

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, % Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155 or the ALS Association of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, 1919 University Ave. W., Ste 175, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Open House

SEP 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Maslowski Wellness & Research Ctr.
17 5th St, SW,
Wadena, MN 56482

Time Of Remembrance

SEP 17. 5:00 PM (CT)

Maslowski Wellness & Research Ctr.
17 5th St, SW,
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - September 13, 2022 at 04:06 PM

JM

“ Jeff Mueller lit a candle in memory of Sally Robertson



Jeff Mueller - September 30, 2025 at 01:06 PM

AB

“ I worked for Sally for my first legal job back in 2017-2018 and helped her prepare for retirement from the bench, and what a privilege it was--she was an intelligent, compassionate, caring, always respectful, remarkable person who taught me much and quickly became a friend. It was truly a privilege to know her, and she'll be greatly missed by all who did. Our condolences to her family. Adam Barkl and Nick Qi

Adam Barkl - January 12, 2023 at 01:07 AM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sally Ireland Robertson.



September 16, 2022 at 10:05 PM

JH

“ *Celery was a good common sense trial court judge who is compassionate about her job and treated people fairly. I enjoyed her membership with the MDJA board and the organization. She was always supportive of her fellow trial court judges and was a good and kind human being.*
John and Brenda Hoffman

john hoffman - September 15, 2022 at 05:38 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Sally Ireland Robertson.*



September 13, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *50 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - September 13, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sally Ireland Robertson.*



September 12, 2022 at 06:12 PM

AP

“ Arleen A. Paulson Paulson lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Arleen A. Paulson Paulson - September 10, 2022 at 11:57 AM

JH

“ James Harrison lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



James Harrison - September 06, 2022 at 01:14 PM

BG

“ Bob And Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Bob and Donna Grendahl - August 30, 2022 at 11:43 AM

GC

“ And Laree.

Gloria Carlson - August 29, 2022 at 08:29 AM

GC

“ I had the privilege to clerk with Sally when she came to Douglas County. She was very good to Court Administration. Our work relationship turned into a friendship and we met in Wadena for lunches many times with Martha, Mary K., Cheryle and anyone else who was available. She loved Wadena and took us on a few tours. She introduced us to Oma's great foods. She was a very good friend and will be missed. Thank you, Sally.

Gloria Carlson - August 29, 2022 at 08:27 AM

GL

“ Judge Sall

Glenda Lucas - August 25, 2022 at 11:40 PM

BM

“ I, too, only saw Sally at judge’s conferences. We had great visits and we learned from each other. I had no idea she was ill or I would have communicated. I am very sad to learn of her passing. My sincerest condolences to all of her family and friends.

Betsy Martin - August 23, 2022 at 11:20 AM

DB

“ Sad to hear this news. Sally and I were Judicial colleagues for over 20 years together. She had a warm smile always! I will miss her friendship and insightful common sense. RIP Sally.
Retired Judge Dave Battey Alexandria

Dave Battey - August 22, 2022 at 02:10 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Sally Ireland Robertson.



August 21, 2022 at 11:36 AM

BA

“ Barb & Mark Allen lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Barb & Mark Allen - August 20, 2022 at 09:53 PM

PA

“ I loved Sally. I only got to see her once a year at Madden’s, but spending time with her there was one of the highlights for me. She was a wonderful person and I know that carried over into how she served people as a judge.

Peter Albrecht
Sr. Judge, 4th District

peter albrecht - August 20, 2022 at 08:41 PM

AM

Like Peter, I knew Sally from seeing her at judges' conferences. She especially enjoyed joining in the after-hours musical jams and always requested that Don Venne sing and play "The Dutchman." Now both gone this year, sadly. Reading these tributes it is obvious that she was treasured by all who knew her.

Anne McKinsey - August 22, 2022 at 01:33 PM

Jl

“ So sorry to hear of her passing. We were very blessed to have her preform our wedding in the court house. She had a great sense of humor she told us that she never wanted to see us in her court room after that day. Prayers are with you all during this time.

jocelynn lwen - August 20, 2022 at 05:11 PM

SK

“ Sally was an extremely compassionate and kind person as well as a valued colleague and friend. She will be greatly missed. Senior Judge Frank Kundrat, St. Cloud, MN.

Senior Judge Frank Kundrat - August 19, 2022 at 01:58 PM

LM

“ This is sad news to hear. I got to know Sally at Judicial Decision Making conferences over the years, and I treasured her wisdom and insights to the challenges of judging. Plus, she was just fun to be around. My best wishes to all of her family and friends, who had her full-time attention for far too short of a time in her retirement.

Judge Laurie Miller, Hennepin County

Laurie Miller - August 19, 2022 at 01:39 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Sally Ireland Robertson.



August 19, 2022 at 12:24 PM

KL

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. I always enjoyed talking with Sally at Judges' Conferences and meetings. I will miss her friendship and wise counsel.

Judge Kristin Larson, Anoka County

Kristin Larson - August 19, 2022 at 11:21 AM

AN

“ So very sorry to hear about your mom Caitlin. She was such a wonderful lady and I have such fond childhood memories with you, and your mom was always so kind whenever I saw her. Thinking of you and your entire family at this time.
Ashley Nerpio (Braith)

Ashley Nerpio - August 19, 2022 at 10:56 AM

ML

“ God bless Sally and her loving family! She was a remarkable woman



Mary Lynk - August 18, 2022 at 09:24 PM

SJ

“ Sheila Jacobson lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Sheila Jacobson - August 18, 2022 at 09:08 PM

TC

“ Our very sincere thoughts and prayers are for Sally and for Jamie and rest of Sally's family.
Tom and Patricia Crawford



Tom Crawford - August 18, 2022 at 04:07 PM

GA

“ From attorney to Judge, Sally was a great customer of ours at Don's Red Owl.



GP Anderson - August 18, 2022 at 01:46 PM

GL

“ I enjoyed visiting with Sally. She had a compassionate, yet innately intelligent, perspective. Please accept my sympathies on her passing. Gail



Gail Levenson - August 18, 2022 at 09:00 AM

Jl

“ Jocelynn Iwen lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



jocelynn Iwen - August 17, 2022 at 10:16 PM

GS

“ So sorry to hear of Sally’s passing. She had a special place in her heart for children and that showed through in every case she heard that involved children caught in the court system through no fault of their own.

Gabe Sellman - August 17, 2022 at 06:10 PM

DK

“ David And Linda Kleinke lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



David and Linda Kleinke - August 17, 2022 at 02:35 PM

JE

“ Jane Erckenbrack lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Jane Erckenbrack - August 17, 2022 at 10:11 AM

RP

“ As Rhett Butler said of Melanie Wilkes, "She was the only truly kind person that I have ever known." Sally was one of 3 that I had the privilege to know. Sadly, they are all gone now. May God bless the rest of us, as Sally was a blessing to so many.

Dick and Cheri Pratt

Richard A Pratt - August 17, 2022 at 10:05 AM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Glen Donna Wood - August 16, 2022 at 10:13 PM

DA

“ Our world has lost a beautiful human being. My first thought when I heard the news of Sally's death was the poignant tribute Caitlin gave in her song Sally Ireland. May those words & sweet memories bring comfort to you all in this time of grief. ❤️🙏



Di Schiller Anderson - August 16, 2022 at 09:56 PM

MH

“ Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Marladene Heinen - August 16, 2022 at 09:48 PM

SH

“ Shannon lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Shannon - August 16, 2022 at 09:13 PM

MO

“ Mike Ortmann lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Mike Ortmann - August 16, 2022 at 09:08 PM

AP

“ Arleen A. Paulson Paulson lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Arleen A. Paulson Paulson - August 16, 2022 at 08:07 PM

JK

“ Janet Kneisl lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Janet Kneisl - August 16, 2022 at 06:11 PM

JP

“ Jerry And Kathy Peterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - August 16, 2022 at 05:27 PM

MJ

So sorry to hear of this. She was a very respectful person. Always enjoyed visiting with her. Thoughts and prayers to her family. Love the Jarvi's

Mark Jarvi - August 16, 2022 at 06:34 PM

KD

“ So sorry to hear. Sally was an amazing human being! Always had time for hello! Please know that she was loved and respected by many.

Katie Dykhoff - August 16, 2022 at 03:01 PM

RK

“ *Sally was the most down to earth professional person I knew. Asking me not to call her Judge unless I was in court, that followed by a giggle. She always remembered my first name, even though time passed between chats. What a lovely person, so sad her retirement was not longer. Sincerely, Mavis Kendall*

Rich & Mavis Kendall - August 16, 2022 at 02:42 PM

SB

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson*



Sharon Boline - August 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM

LS

“ *sorry for your loss*



Lois Stelflug - August 16, 2022 at 12:15 PM

ML

“ *Mary Lynk lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson*



Mary Lynk - August 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

MN

“ *Praying for comfort, strength, and peace of mind for you, Jamie, and your entire family as you all adjust to life on this earth without Sally's beautiful smile, infectious laugh, fun sense of humor and her kind and thoughtful attitude to everyone.*

May your memories of Sally give great joy!

I'm so grateful that I shared Sally's path for many years during her life's journey!



Marilyn Nervig - August 16, 2022 at 09:54 AM

MS

“ Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Mike and Lea Snyder - August 16, 2022 at 09:38 AM

PL

“ Paul And Elaine Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Paul and Elaine Lorentz - August 16, 2022 at 08:48 AM

TH

“ Tammie Klawitter Hamlin lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson



Tammie Klawitter Hamlin - August 16, 2022 at 08:48 AM

JS

“ RIP ,my friend



Jim Stoneman - August 16, 2022 at 07:22 AM

GD

“ Thoughts and prayers for the Robertson family, may God's peace bring you peace and comfort



George & Julie Deiss - August 16, 2022 at 06:29 AM

JT

“ *Jim TeVogt lit a candle in memory of Sally Ireland Robertson*



Jim TeVogt - August 16, 2022 at 12:21 AM