

PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Justice Marilyn S. Kite announced today that former Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard V. Thomas died on September 4, 2010, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne.

Born in Superior, Wyoming, on October 11, 1932, Richard Van Thomas was raised in Lingle, Wyoming. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Wyoming, he obtained his law degree, with honors, from the University of Wyoming, College of Law in 1956. He then earned his Masters of Laws at New York University with an emphasis in tax law.

Justice Thomas' legal career began with his admission to the Wyoming bar on July 31, 1956. He served a three year tour of duty as a Judge Advocate General, stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, and was a partner at the law firm of Hirst, Applegate & Thomas prior to serving as the United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming.

Justice Thomas served on the Wyoming Supreme Court from December of 1974 to February of 2001. He served as Chief Justice from January 1985 through December 1986. Upon retirement, he moved to Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Chief Justice Kite stated that a memorial service for Justice Richard V. Thomas would be held at the Wyoming Supreme Court at a later date.