



Leo A. Lilly

Born: July 29, 1878 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Died: December 11, 1967 in Havertown, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Clerk of Court: 1951-1956

Mr. Lilly served as the Clerk of the Court for a period of five years, and worked in the Clerk's office for over sixty years.

At the time of his retirement, he was formally recognized by the Court. Judge George A. Welsh was quoted as saying that Lilly was "the most beloved man I have ever known in public life." A newspaper article was published on the occasion of his retirement, which reported on his retirement, as follows:

U.S. Court Clerk Retiring at 77¹

Leo A. Lilly, clerk of the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania, will retire Wednesday after more than 60 years service as a Federal employe.

Lilly, 77, is the court's oldest employe in point of service.

His long Government career began on April 1, 1896, when he started working as an office boy for the then U.S. Attorney James M. Beck. In 1901, he became secretary to Judge George M. Dallas, of the old Circuit Court.

¹ *U.S. Court Clerk Retiring at 77*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Oct. 28, 1956), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/176346824>

Admitted to Bar

It was during this period Lilly studied law in a law office. He was admitted to the bar in 1905, but never practiced.

Lilly was transferred to the District Court in 1907 where he was to remain for nearly half a century. He served as chief deputy clerk for many years and was promoted to clerk in 1951 at the death of his long-time boss, George Brodbeck.

The District Court formally recognized Lilly's 60th anniversary in the Federal court service last April. At the time, Judge George A. Welsh termed Lilly "the most beloved man I have ever known in public life."

Guest at Dinner

The judges of the court are scheduled to mark his retirement Wednesday. He also will be guest of honor of the Philadelphia Bar Association at a testimonial dinner at the Barclay November 19.

Lilly lives at 916 Nicholson rd., Wynnewood, with a daughter, Mrs. John E. Rafferty.

At the time of his death, the following obituary notices appeared about him that summarize his life and career:

Leo A. Lilly, 89; Ex-Court Clerk ²

Leo A. Lilly, 89, retired clerk of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern Pennsylvania District, headquartered here, died yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Veronica L. Rafferty, at 916 Nicholson rd., Wynnewood.

An attorney, Mr. Lilly was associated with the Federal courts for 60 years before his retirement in 1959. He had been a member of the bar since 1903.

During his long tenure, Mr. Lilly worked under 18 district judges, and for a time served under the late James M. Beck, former U.S. Attorney and later Solicitor General of the United States.

In addition to his daughter, surviving are a son, Joseph H., seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Requiem Mass 10 A. M. Friday, St. Margaret's Church, Narberth.

² *Leo A. Lilly, 89; Ex-Court Clerk*, THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Dec. 12, 1967), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/184795561>

Leo A. Lilly, at 89, Former Court Clerk³

Leo A. Lilly, retired clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern Pennsylvania District, died Monday at the home of his daughter, Veronica L. Rafferty, 916 Nicholson rd., Wynnewood. He was 89.

Mr. Lilly, an attorney, was associated with the Federal court system for more than 60 years before his retirement in 1956. His first association with the courts was as secretary of the late James M. Beck, then U.S. Attorney and later U.S. Solicitor General.

Judge's Secretary

A graduate of the first class of the Roman Catholic High School, Mr. Lilly in 1900 was appointed secretary to the late U.S. Circuit Court Judge George M. Dallas.

He was admitted to the bar in 1903 and in 1907 was appointed to the U.S. District Clerk's Office. He was named chief deputy clerk in 1933 and chief clerk in 1951, a position he held until his retirement.

Holy Name Member

During his association with the courts, he served 18 district judges. He was a member of St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Men of Malvern and the Holy Name Society, and was founding member of The Men of The Rosary Guild.

In addition to Mrs. Rafferty, he is survived by a son, Joseph H. Lilly, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Solemn Requiem Mass will be sung at 10 A.M. Friday in St. Margaret's Church, Narberth. Interment will be in St. Denis Cemetery.

³ *Leo A. Lilly, at 89, Former Court Clerk*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Dec. 12, 1967), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/179891364>