

Roy J. Solfisburg Jr., ex-state high court judge

By Monica Copeland

Former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Roy J. Solfisburg Jr., of Aurora, died Friday in Ft. Myers, Fla. He was 74.

Justice Solfisburg was elected to the Supreme Court in 1960 and served for nine years. He served as chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1962 to 1963 and from 1967 to 1969.

A 1940 graduate of the University of Illinois School of Law, Justice Solfisburg served as Aurora's corporation counsel from 1949 to 1953. He served as a circuit judge of the 16th District from 1956 to 1957 and an Illinois Appellate Court judge for the 2nd District from 1957 to 1960.

In the early 1980s, he taught constitutional law at Aurora College.

In World War II, Justice Solfisburg served in the Navy as a lieutenant. He was a member of the

American Legion. He was also a member of the Aurora Elks Club, past president of the Exchange Club and a member of the Aurora Union League. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Aurora.

Justice Solfisburg resigned in 1969 after an Illinois Supreme Court Special Commission charged he and another justice had accepted favors from a former state official involved in a case before the court. Justice Solfisburg denied any wrongdoing and said he resigned because public confidence in him had been weakened.

Justice Solfisburg is survived by his wife, Edith; two sons, Roy III and William; three daughters, Susan Davis, Sally Fine and Sandy Whitelaw; and nine grandchildren. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. May 4 at Spring Lake Cemetery, 745 S. Lincoln Ave., Aurora.