

James Henry Muirhead



Date of Birth: 24 April 1925

Place of Birth: Adelaide SA

Parents: H M Muirhead (Police Magistrate)

Education: St Peter's College SA
University of Adelaide

Spouse: Married Margaret (née Frayne)
4 February 1950
3 sons, 1 daughter

Military Service:

Australian Imperial Force 1943-1946
57th/60th Australian Infantry Battalion
Bougainville New Guinea
37th/52nd Australian Infantry Battalion Rabaul New Britain

Employment History:

Barrister and solicitor with Thomson, Buttrose,
Ross & Lewis 1950-1969
Judge Local and District Criminal Court of SA 1970-1972
Acting Judge Supreme Court of PNG 1972-1973
Acting Director responsible for establishing Australian
Institute of Criminology in Canberra 1973-1974
Judge Supreme Court of the Northern Territory 1974-1985
Acting Chief Justice 1985
Judge Federal Court of Australia 1977-1987
Resident Judge Federal Court of WA 1986-1987
Acting Judge Supreme Court of Northern Territory 1987
Appointed to act in absence of Administrator and Chief
Justice 19 December 1980 to 17 January 1981 and
29 September 1982 to 3 October 1982
Residential Judge of the NT Supreme Court
Appointed Acting Administrator with a dormant
commission 4 February 1983
Acted in the office of Administrator from 5 February 1983
to 6 March 1983, 7 August 1985 to 24 September 1985
Royal Commissioner Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths
in Custody 1987
Appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory
1 July 1989
Retired 4 December 1992

Qualifications, Appointments and Admissions

Admitted to the Bar 1950
Queen's Counsel 1967

Subsequent Career: Retired to Perth WA
WA Patron of Menzies School of Health Research
Ministerial Advisor Council on Veterans Issues 1993-1994
Died on 20 July 1999 State Funeral held in Darwin

Honours and Awards: 1939-1945: Star
Pacific Star
War Medal
Australian Service Medal 1939-1945
Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977
Knight of Grace of the Order of St John (KStJ) 1989
Appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)
in the General Division 1991

Memorials: Muirhead Chambers Darwin