

George M. Scott served on state Supreme Court ; The WWII vet also worked in the Minnesota attorney general's office and was Hennepin County attorney

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George M. Scott, whose 36-year legal career took him from private practice to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office and on to the Minnesota Supreme Court, died Thursday. He was 83.

Scott, who succumbed to complications of congestive heart failure, served on the court from 1973 until 1987, when he cited heart problems for his decision to retire six years before his term ended.

"What a wonderful guy," said former Gov. Wendell Anderson, who named Scott an associate justice. "I had such great respect for him and nobody had a greater influence on me when it came to judicial appointments."

Anderson picked Scott for the high court just three years after Scott unsuccessfully challenged Anderson for the DFL gubernatorial endorsement.

"I liked and respected George Scott when we began that campaign," Anderson said at the time. "But I had even more respect for him when it was over."

A native of New Jersey, Scott studied at the University of Minnesota during

World War II; he fought in Europe after D-Day.

He returned to Minnesota to marry Joyce Hughes, whom he had met at the university. After obtaining his degree from William Mitchell College of Law, he began a career in 1951 specializing in insurance and personal injury litigation.

Four years later, he briefly served as a deputy attorney general before being appointed Hennepin County attorney, a job he held for 18 years.

"He was my first boss and probably the best I ever had," said Ron Meshbesh, a well-known Minneapolis attorney. "He was the kind of guy who instilled confidence, not a second-guesser. I owe everything to George Scott, when it comes to my experience in the courtroom."

Scott was active outside the courtroom, as well.

In 1960, he served as Hubert Humphrey's campaign manager in a successful run for reelection for the U.S. Senate.

He served as president of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association and the National District Attorney's Association. He volunteered with the Minnesota

Optimists, the Volunteers of America and served as the regional chair of the National March of Dimes.

Scott is survived by his wife, four sons, a daughter and 11 grandchildren. Three of his children followed his footsteps, becoming lawyers in Minnesota.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Minneapolis. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Rainville Brothers Funeral Chapel in Minneapolis.