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**OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**PETER J. ORPUT** COUNTY ATTORNEY

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: April 4th, 2022

### **Pete Orput, Husband, Father and Washington County Attorney Passes Away at 66**

Pete Orput, the long-serving Washington County Attorney, passed away yesterday, April 3, 2022 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. He was 66 years old.

"The people who live and work in Washington County lost more than a county attorney," said Brent Wartner, first assistant county attorney. "They lost a champion of public safety, a guardian, a fierce advocate for justice—and a dedicated public servant."

Orput was first elected Washington County Attorney in 2010. He was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. He previously announced his plans to retire once his current term ended at the end of the year.

Driven by a passion for justice, Orput served the Washington County Attorney's Office with honor, integrity, and spirit. He built an office that embraced his strong moral and ethical pillars, and the pride he had for his team was unmatched. Losing him leaves a hole in the office and the legal community that will not be easily filled.

"This weekend we lost one of our giants," said Isanti County Attorney Jeff Edblad. "Pete evaluated every case under the standard of seeking justice. He had a special place in his heart for those suffering from addiction and for those who found themselves in the criminal justice system because of actions that were a result of mental health issues incurred through service to this country."

"Through his own public service to Washington County, the State of Minnesota and the United States Marine Corps, Pete Orput made a difference in the lives of so many others and we celebrate that today," Edblad added.

Orput enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1973. After his discharge as a lance corporal in 1976, he used the GI Bill to earn a teaching degree from the University of Minnesota. He went on to teach high school history in Minneapolis before pursuing a career in the legal profession.

After graduating from William Mitchell College of Law, Orput served as an assistant county attorney for Mille Lacs, Carver, Hennepin, and Dakota counties. He also taught police science as an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University.

"It is hard to come up with words today regarding the passing of a great person like Pete," said Washington County Board Chair Wayne Johnson. "He has accomplished so much, all in the name of serving the public. Pete was a friend, a colleague, and someone I always enjoyed seeing at meetings or events. My deepest condolences on behalf of the entire County Board and organization to his wife Tami and his family."

Orput is survived by his wife, Tami, six children and six grandchildren. The County Board will provide information on the process related to the County Attorney position at a future date.

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PETE ORPUT  
County Attorney

