

Burial Service Handout

Donald P. (“Don”) Racheter, Ph.D., died on February 24, 2024, from cancer at Indiana University Hospital in West Lafayette, Indiana. Racheter is survived by his wife Ellen Racheter of West Lafayette, IN; his daughter Annalese Racheter (Aaron Alford) and granddaughter of Ankeny, IA; his daughter Alena Racheter Furlong (Nick) and grandsons of Missoula, MT; his son Chip Racheter (Stephanie) and grandchild of Del Valle, TX; his stepdaughter Kelley Kimm of West Lafayette; his sister Deann Jackson-Flues of Pensacola, FL; his niece Lori Seese of Harrisburg, PA; and his nephew Shawn Jackson of Bay City, MI . He was preceded in death by his father Paul A. Racheter of Pigeon, MI, and his mother Aleatha R. (Baur) Racheter of Pigeon, MI.

During his life, Racheter achieved distinction as an Army Officer, Author, Boy Scout Leader, College Professor, Mock Trial Coach, Non-Profit Leader, Parliamentarian, Politician, Political Scientist, Pre-Law Advisor, Public Speaker, Taxpayer Activist, and Veterans Leader. He was listed in the following biographical reference works for his outstanding achievements: America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals, Biography International, Biography Fame International, Community Leaders of the World, Contemporary Authors, Dictionary of International Biography, Directory of Distinguished Americans, Distinguished Who's Who, Eminent People of Today, Five Hundred Leaders of Achievement, International Book of Honor, International Directory of Distinguished Leadership, International Who's Who in Education, International Who's Who of Intellectuals, Men of Achievement, Men and Women of Distinction, One Thousand Great Americans, Two Thousand Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century, Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in American Politics, Who's Who in Freemasonry, Who's Who in the Midwest, Who’s Who of Public Service, and Who’s Who in the 21st Century.

Racheter was born on 1 April 1947 in Pigeon and attended elementary school there, and then middle and high school at the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port consolidated Laker Schools, where he graduated as Valedictorian in 1965, the first in the school’s history to do so with a perfect 4.0 record. He then attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, and graduated in 1969 with honors in Political Science, and minors in history, philosophy, and economics. He was elected to the national political science honorary Pi Sigma Alpha and the forensics honorary Delta Sigma Rho – Tau Kappa Alpha.

Racheter then enrolled in graduate school in Political Science at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA, receiving his MA in 1972 and his Ph.D. in 1978. His master’s thesis was entitled “Representation and the Congratulation-Rationalization Effect: The Impact of Election Outcome on Candidates’ Attitudes,” a version of which was published in 1973 while he was still a graduate student in the American Political Science Review, the premier professional journal in political science, as “Candidates’ Perception of Voters’ Competence: A Comparison of Winning and Losing Candidates.” His doctoral dissertation, which reported on his combined research interests in his four Comprehensive Examination areas of American Politics, Comparative Politics, Philosophy of Inquiry, and Political Theory, was entitled “The Magnifier Effect: Representative Myth and Democratic Government.”

While in graduate school Racheter served as a Research Assistant, a Resident Advisor, and as a Teaching Assistant in the areas of American Politics, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory. He taught for the University's Evening Division and was the author of two correspondence courses in American politics.

His first full-time job in Political Science starting in the fall of 1976 was as an Instructor for Central College in Pella, Iowa where he taught in the areas of American Government, statistical research methods, philosophy of inquiry, and American and European political thought. Racheter was promoted by Central to the ranks of Assistant Professor in 1979, Associate Professor in 1986, and Professor in 1993. He also taught on a part-time basis for the College of St. Francis, Iowa Wesleyan College, and the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College over the years of his professional career. Nominated by students who were themselves listed in national directories, Racheter was twice listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

In addition to his work in political science, Don helped develop Central's Pre-Law Program in 1980 and was appointed as the Director in the fall of 1984. He was responsible for teaching the three courses that constituted the core of the Pre-Law Certification Program, as well as courses in trial advocacy. As Central moved into the computer age, Don lent a hand by instructing beginning word processing courses. In the 90s he helped develop Central's Not-for-profit Management Program and was the Instructor for the introductory seminar for three years. He also was tapped to teach an American History Course early in his years at Central.

Beginning in the summer after his Central appointment, Don engaged in a continuing education activity of at least a week length each year until he accepted responsibility for the Public Interest Institute on a permanent basis in 1995. He also was a regular attendee at professional meetings of the national, regional, and state political science associations, often serving as a paper presenter, a discussant, or panel chairman.

His professional leadership was recognized by his election five times as President of the Iowa Conference of Political Scientists (the only person in its history elected more than once), his election to a five-year term as the first holder of the newly created position as Executive Secretary of the ICPS, and his receipt of the newly created ICPS Professor Vernon Van Dyke Award for "outstanding service to the Political Science community in Iowa and beyond." After the ICPS went dormant, Don helped create a new state-wide organization for his profession and served as the first President, the Secretary, and Executive Secretary of the Iowa Association of Political Scientists (IAPS) before his resignation when he left the state of Iowa.

Racheter was a member of the regional Midwest Association of Political Scientists and served a term on its Nominations Committee. At the national level, Don was one of the founders of the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Organized Section on Experiential Education, subsequently re-named the Organized Section on Undergraduate Education. He served as the Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws drafting committee of the section and as its parliamentarian. He was elected five times as the Secretary-Treasurer of the section before being term-limited out of the position in 2002. He served two-year terms on the editorial boards of the APSA's journals The Political Science Teacher and PS: Political Science and Politics.

In the fall of 1984 just after he had received the administrative appointment as Director of Central's Pre-Law Program, Racheter was invited to participate in a meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, which resulted in the creation of the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). He subsequently served as Incorporator, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Past President of AMTA and as a member of almost every committee of the national organization, often as Chairman. His long and outstanding service to AMTA was recognized when he was selected as the first recipient of the newly created Congressman Neal Smith Award for "outstanding contributions in promoting public understanding of the legal process" and the presentation of a special and unique twenty-year Distinguished Service Award.

Don became the Educator Coach of the Central College Mock Trial Team in the fall of 1984 and led his fledgling squad to the Championship Round of the first National Tournament in the spring of 1985 against a team from the much larger Eastern Illinois University. He coached his Central teams to winning season after winning season, with his students bringing home seven National team trophies, 23 individual All-American Awards, and a Spirit of AMTA Award. His outstanding coaching was recognized by receipt of the Chief Justice W.W. Reynoldson Award. He was one of the first educators in the United States to develop for-credit courses in Mock Trial for undergraduates and the first to host an Invitational Tournament. The annual Central College tournament was re-established in 2016 in his honor as the Dr. Donald P. Racheter Mock Trial Invitational.

While in graduate school at Iowa, Racheter enrolled in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1972. He was the Commander of the Hawkeye Brigade and the Distinguished Military Graduate of his class. After a one-year educational delay to finish up his doctoral coursework he entered active duty on July 4, 1973, and attended Adjutant General's Officer Basic at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN. Again graduating first in his class, Racheter was then assigned as an Assistant Adjutant for the Communications Systems Agency detachment at Fort Huachuca, AZ. At the completion of his two-year tour of duty in 1975 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Upon returning to Iowa City to begin work on his dissertation, Racheter joined the 1/410th Infantry Battalion, United States Army Reserve (USAR) and served as a Race Relations Officer and Assistant Training Officer until the fall of 1976. Having moved to Pella, Racheter transferred to the 103rd Support Brigade in Des Moines and served first as a Classified Documents Custodian and then as Assistant Adjutant. After receiving an early promotion to Captain, Racheter was selected to command the 312th General Supply Company in Des Moines. He then was selected to join the Inspector General corps and was assigned as an Assistant IG with the 103rd Corps Support Command (COSCOM) in Des Moines. While in that position he received an early promotion to Major, and was subsequently selected to serve on the Commanding General's staff as the Public Affairs Officer.

While serving with the COSCOM, Racheter completed his Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course through correspondence, and then enrolled in the three-year Command and General Staff Officers Course (C&GSC) through the 5040th USARF School in Des Moines.

After completing C&GSC as an honor graduate, Racheter was recruited by the School to become an Instructor in 1986. During his ten years with the 5040th, Racheter received an early promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and successive assignments of increasing responsibility as Director of Officer Courses, Secretary, Director of Enlisted Courses, and Assistant Commandant. He retired in August of 1996 when his unit was downsized in the post-Cold War military reduction in forces.

In addition to the ARCOM previously mentioned, Racheter was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with ten-year device, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Campaign Star, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for his many outstanding contributions to our nation's military during his twenty-six years with the Army.

While a Reservist, Racheter joined and became a life member of the American Legion (AL), the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Once he retired and moved to West Lafayette, IN, Don became active in Post 38 of the American Legion. He was elected as First Vice Commander, then Commander of the Post, and became an ex-officio member of all the Post Committees. He joined the local ROA and MOAA chapters, and became a member of the Tippecanoe County Veterans' Council and AL Second District Committee as a result of his position as AL Post Commander.

Racheter's political activism began in 1960 as a Democrat stumping for the election of John Kennedy against Richard Nixon in his eighth-grade civics class debates. By 1964 he had read Conscience of a Conservative by Barry Goldwater, seen the light, and converted to the Republican Party and joined the Huron County Chapter of Teen-Aged Republicans. He continued his political activism at the University of Michigan, serving on the Executive Board of the College Republicans Chapter and as Co-Chairman of the Students for Balzhiser for Mayor of Ann Arbor committee. While in graduate school, Racheter began his regular service as a participant in Iowa's precinct caucuses, county conventions, district caucuses, and state conventions. He was also active in numerous committees working for the election of Republican candidates from the courthouse to the White House.

Once he arrived in Pella, he was elected as Precinct Committeeman; Presidential Elector; National Convention Delegate; County, District, and State Conventions Delegate; County: Chairman, Treasurer, Platform Committee Chairman, and Rules Committee Chairman; District: Committeeman, Convention Parliamentarian, Convention Rules Committeeman, Platform Committee Chairman; State: Nominating Committeeman, Convention Parliamentarian, Rules Committee Member, and Platform Committee Chairman. He was the Founder and Moderator of the Iowa Center-Right Information Exchange group (subsequently the Wednesday Group) which brought representatives of the various interests in the Republican coalition together for monthly meetings. After his move to Iowa City, Don continued as Precinct Committeeman; County Central Committeeman and Parliamentarian; County, District, and State Platform Committee Chairman; County, District, and State Rules Committeeman; District Committeeman and Vice Chairman; County, District, and State Conventions Delegate; as Founder and Moderator of the

Eastern Iowa Conservative Breakfast Club; and as a member of various candidate support committees for the party.

In 1981 Don was elected to the Board of Directors of Iowans for Tax Relief, which had been founded in 1978 by a group of twelve former Iowa legislators, and he became one of only a few Directors who formally presented for the organization. He was subsequently elected to the Boards of Directors of the Tax Education Foundation, the Tax Education Support Organization, the National Taxpayers Union, the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, and World Taxpayers Associations. He was a presenter at several State, National, and International Taxpayer Conferences.

In 1983 Racheter was elected to the Board of Directors of Iowans for Right-to-Work, and in 1984 he was appointed as Chairman of the Legislative Policy Committee. He was elected as Second Vice Chairman of the group in 1989, First Vice Chairman in 1990, and Chairman in 1991. After service as the Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee in 1992 – 1993, he retired from the Executive Committee. He served as Treasurer of the group's Political Action Committee from 1990-93.

In the late 80s Don envisioned a smaller version of the national think tanks such as Heritage and CATO studying public policy issues with a focus on Iowa. He took his idea to David Stanley, the President of E&M Charities of Muscatine, IA, and persuaded him and the E&M Board to endow the start-up of the Public Interest Institute (PII). Racheter took a leave of absence from Central in 1991-92 to serve as the initial Executive Director, launch the Institute, and oversee the construction of their suite of offices on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant. From 1992-95 Don served as Vice President of the Institute's Board, and he then returned to the paid position of Executive Director in the fall of 1995 on a part-time basis. He was promoted to President of the Institute in 1999 and continued to develop his brainchild into a force for free-market, limited-government, and traditional family values ideas until it was closed down by its Board of Directors on 31 December 2017.

The Institute had an active program of research on public policy which resulted in the publication of books, three quarterlies, a monthly BRIEFs series, Op-Eds, a weekly newspaper column, and occasional "white papers" and "fact sheets" on timely topics. Racheter testified at both state legislative and Congressional hearings for the Institute, and was often a guest on radio talk shows discussing issues of public policy. He was listed in the Heritage Foundation Guide to Policy Experts for many years. The Institute created the Iowa Civics Project which was distributed free to any student in the state to help them learn about local and state government, and which was subsequently revised by Racheter into a text: Government and Politics of Iowa.

After being appointed as Central College's Pre-Law Advisor in late 1984, Racheter joined the Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors (MAPLA) in the fall of 1985. In 1988 he was appointed as the MAPLA Newsletter Editor and elected to the Board of Directors. He served as the Parliamentarian and Archivist. He was elected as the groups' President Elect in 1990, President in 1991, and Past President in 1992. He served as the group's Secretary from 1992 to 1994. As MAPLA President, he served as an ex-officio member of the Pre-Law Advisors National Council (PLANC) and was selected by the Law School Admissions Council

for two-year membership on their Pre-Law Advisors Liaison Panel. Based on his expertise, Don was selected to help lead workshops for new Pre-Law Advisors at meetings of MAPLA and the American Political Science Association. After a hiatus, Racheter rejoined the MAPLA Board in 2008 and served as its Treasurer until his death. He was elected Treasurer of PLANC in 2017 and continued to serve in that position also until his death.

Racheter's gift for public speaking was evident early. He won a Youth for Christ "Boy Preacher" contest, and won state honors in both extemporaneous speaking and debate while in high school. In college he became a member of the University of Michigan Varsity Debate Squad and the Group Discussion Team, taking State of Michigan honors with the latter. He was elected Secretary and then President of the Forensics Guild. In addition to his speaking on behalf of Iowans for Tax Relief, on radio talk shows for the Public Interest Institute, and as a spokesman for numerous political candidates mentioned above, Racheter was an invited guest speaker in his colleagues' classes at Central College and for community groups such as the Pella Peace Coalition, Pastors Luncheon, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, and Christian Action and Awareness Group.

Given the many other demands on his time, Racheter produced a surprisingly long list of published writings. In addition to those items already mentioned, he co-edited with Dr. Richard E. Wagner Politics, Taxation, and the Rule of Law: The Power to Tax in Constitutional Perspective (Boston: Kluwer, 2002), Federal Government in Principle and Practice (Boston: Kluwer, 2000), and Limiting Leviathan, (Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 1999). He authored Instructor's Manual with Test Bank to Accompany American Democracy in Transition (St. Paul: West Publishing, 1991); "The Role of Freedoms" (Des Moines: Drake Law Review, 1998); "Iowa: Crucible of the Christian Right," (with John Green and Lyman Kellstedt) in Marching Toward the Millennium edited by John Green, Mark Rozell, and Clyde Wilcox (Washington, D. C.: Georgetown University Press, 2003); "The Constitutional Framework for Democratic Taxation," (with Richard Wagner) in Politics, Taxation, and the Rule of Law; "Legislation and Adjudication in a Federal Republic," in Federal Government in Principle and Practice; "Faustian Bargains and Constitutional Governance," (with Richard Wagner) in Limiting Leviathan; and book reviews of Jansson's The Sixteen-Trillion-Dollar Mistake (Ideas on Liberty 2002); Dinkin's Voting in Revolutionary America: A Study of Elections in the Original Thirteen States, 1776-1789 (American Political Science Review, 1984); and Goldstein's The Modern Vice Presidency (American Political Science Review, 1983).

Racheter wrote Op-Eds entitled "Who's the Bad Guy in this Case?" which appeared in the Des Moines Register (November 21, 2001, p. 11 A) and "Are Tax Amendments Good for Iowa? Pro: Restrain Government, Protect Public" (with Richard E. Wagner) Des Moines Register (June 22, 1999, p. 11 A) and Institute BRIEFS entitled "Give it Back!" (September 1998) "Give County Consolidation a Chance" (February 1998) "Win-win-Win" (February 1998) "Reform of the American Political Process" (September 1997) "The Emergence, Evolution, and Functions of American Political Parties (August 1997).

He was the author of newspaper columns entitled "Simplifying the Registration Process" (Ft. Madison Daily Democrat, Brooklyn Chronicle, Montezuma Republican, Mt. Vernon Sun, North English Record, and Morning Sun News Herald) "Taxpayers' Rights Amendment"

(Burlington Hawkeye, Montezuma Republican, Columbus Junction Gazette, Dyersville Commercial, Wapello Republican, New London Journal, What Cheer Patriot-Chronicle, and Ft. Madison Daily Democrat) "Give County Consolidation a Chance" Mt. Pleasant News, Carroll Today, Alta Advertiser, Des Moines Western Express, Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, Columbus Junction Gazette, Mediapolis News, Pella Chronicle, Richland Plainsman-Clarion, and New London Journal) "Constitutional Principles: Limited Government" (Wapello Republican, DeWitt Observer, New London Journal, Keokuk Daily Gate City, Washington Evening Journal, and Keosauqua Van Buren Register) "Taxing Elderly Makes Poor Sense" Carroll Today, Dyersville Commercial, Hudson Herald, Marion Times, New London Journal, West Burlington Des Moines County News, Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, What Cheer Patriot-Chronicle, Wapello Republican, Central City Linn News-Letter, and Winthrop News) "A Win-Win-Win Proposal" (Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, Carroll Today, Central City Linn News-Letter, Waverly Bremer County Independent, Dyersville Commercial, Montezuma Republican, Pella Chronicle, Richland Plainsman-Clarion, Prairie City News, New London Journal, Osage Mitchell County Press-News, Hudson Herald, Winthrop News, and Washington Evening Journal) "Give It Back!" (Carroll Today, Central City Linn News-Letter, Hudson Herald, Allison Butler County Tribune, Pella Chronicle, and Wapello Republican) "You Want What Kind of Equality?" (Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, Waverly Bremer County Independent, Mt. Pleasant News, West Burlington Des Moines County News, New London Journal, Wapello Republican, Carroll Today, and Hudson Herald) "Reform of the American Political Process" (Carroll Today, Columbus Junction Gazette, Dyersville Commercial, Wapello Republican, Grundy Center Register, Pella Chronicle, New London Journal, Richland Plainsman-Clarion, Hudson Herald, Oskaloosa Herald, North English Record, and Williamsburg Journal Tribune) "The Nature and Purpose of Iowa's State Constitution" (Dyersville Constitution, Pella Chronicle, Hudson Herald, and Parkersburg Eclipse-News-Review) and "Justice Department Attacks Free Enterprise" (Denison Review, Rock Valley Bee, Muscatine Journal, and Guthrie Center Times).

Racheter's leadership of volunteer groups began while he was in junior high with his election as first Secretary and then President of the Huron Rocketeers. He joined the Boy Scouts at age eleven and was soon elected as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Scribe, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and National Jamboree Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Don earned the God and Country Award and attained the rank of Eagle Scout with bronze and gold palms, the first boy in the history of Pigeon, Michigan, to do so. He continued to be affiliated with the Scouts well into adulthood and served as a member of the local Cub Scout Committee and Boy Scout Committee, as Chairman of the District Scout Committee, as Scoutmaster of the Troop Leader Development Course, Wood Badge Patrol Leader, Tiger Den Coordinator, Merit Badge Counselor, and Assistant Scoutmaster. He completed all the adult training offered by the Scouts including the prestigious Wood Badge. Don was elected to the Scout Honor Fraternity, the Order of the Arrow and was subsequently elected to its Vigil Honor. He was elected as District Representative of his local council and then Vice Chief. He was also elected as Secretary and then Chief of the regional OA organization.

In high school he was elected President of the National Honor Society, and President of the Student Council. As an undergraduate he was elected to his house council, as its President, as a representative to his hall council, as its President, and as Executive Vice President of the

Inter-House Assembly. He served as a representative on the University of Michigan Student Senate, as a leader in the Delta Sigma Rho – Tau Kappa Alpha National Student Congress, and as President of his Alpha Phi Omega pledge class. As a graduate student, Racheter was elected to represent the political science department on the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), and subsequently elected as President of the GSS. While serving as the GSS ex-officio representative on the University of Iowa Student Senate, Don was elected as Student Body President when a vacancy occurred due to the simultaneous resignations of both the President and Vice President.

As a faculty member Don was elected by his Central College colleagues to the Assessment Committee (also elected Secretary), Metropolitan Programs Council (Chairman), Honorary Degrees Committee, Service Learning Council, Policies and Personnel Committee (Chairman), Interdisciplinary Research Symposium Committee, Academic Seminar Committee (Chairman), Curriculum Committee (Secretary, Chairman), Committee on International Programs, Campus Hearing Board (Chairman), Student Affairs Committee, Welfare and Appeals Committee (Secretary, Chairman), Skills Committee (Secretary), Faculty Research and Development Committee (Chairman), Pre-Law Council (Executive Secretary), Cultural Affairs Committee (Chairman), and the Teacher Education Committee (Chairman).

He was appointed by the administration as Faculty Parliamentarian, Senior Marshall, Minnesota and Washington, D.C. “Friend-Raising Receptions” Speaker, to the Budget Advisory Group, to the Orientation Advisory Committee, as Goldwater Scholarship Program Coordinator, as the Iowa Voter Program Campus Liaison, to the Academic Facilities Study Committee, as Host for a Fulbright Exchange Scholar, as Department Chairman, as a Distinguished Scholar Candidates Interviewer, as the Washington Center Liaison, as the Central College Representative to the Center for the Study of the Recent History of the United States Conference, as an Acting Awards Judge, as Supervisor of the Des Moines Internship Program, and Moderator of the Buckley-Lerner Debate. Racheter was appointed to the Task Forces on Departmental and Division SOPs, Spiritual Life, Not-for-Profit Management, Restructuring College Governance (Chairman), TIAA/CREF Options, Revision of the Covenant of Mutual Responsibility, and Retention.

In Pella Racheter served as the Co-Chairman of the Healing Through Art Program, as a Middle School Gifted and Talented Program Mock Trial Judge, a member of the Tulip Time Queen Selection Committee, as an Usher and Tulip Time Volunteer for the Arts Council, as Parliamentarian, By-Laws Revision Committee Co-Chairman, and Eighth Grade Party Food Committee Co-Chairman for the Parent-Teacher Organization, as Parliamentarian for the Friends of the Library, Secretary for the Tulip City Investment Club, as Parliamentarian and Chairman of the West Market Buying Club, and as Umpire and Coach for the Recreation Commission’s Women’s Softball League.

In Iowa, in addition to the items noted above, Don served as a member of the Governor’s 2010 Task Force Working Group on Taxation and Government Organization, the Iowa Wesleyan College Vision and Search Committee, Iowa Research Council’s Study Development Committee on Public Finance, Iowa State Association of Parliamentarians, Friends of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Executive Committee Chairman), Des Moines Chapter of the American

Institute of Parliamentarians (Auditing Committee Chairman, Public Relations Committee Chairman), U.S. 88 State of Iowa Steering Committee, Congressman Lightfoot's Service Academy Nomination Board, Sole Trustee of the Trust for Taxpayer Defense, Iowa Affiliate of the American Heart Association (Public Relations Committee Chairman, Executive Committee Member), Governor's Education Advisory Task Force, Senator Jepsen's Service Academy Nomination Board, and University of Iowa President's Committee on the Security of Employment Contracts.

Following the example of his father and paternal uncles, Don joined the Free and Accepted Masons, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine as soon as he was eligible to do so at age 21, and maintained his membership until his death.

While Don enjoyed travel and retirement in his recent years, he continued to serve others and achieve recognition in numerous ways. He enjoyed living at Westminster Village in West Lafayette, IN, and as was his custom, became involved in leadership roles and shared his vast knowledge of parliamentary procedure and organizational structure with his new community. He served as a Westminster Village floor leader, head of the Westminster employee gift fund, initiator of a tree identification project, and chair of the Residents Council. In addition to his Commander role in the American Legion, he was the veterans coordinator for all veterans at Westminster. He also coached mock trial for Purdue University from 2018 until December of 2023, and taught their mock trial practicum from 2022 until December of 2023, when he had to resign due to his declining health.

Don's legacy particularly in the realm of pre-law and mock trial has been acknowledged and will continue into the future. In recognition of his lifetime of significant and sustained contributions to the pre-law advising community at the national or regional level, Don was honored to receive the Dean Gerald Lee Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-Law Advising from PLANC in 2023. In 2016, Don created the Racheter MAPLA Impact Award that annually recognizes a MAPLA region pre-law advisor who has demonstrated dedicated advising of pre-law students and who has made valued contributions to the profession of pre-law advising. Additionally, in 2022, Don established the Racheter Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Membership Scholarship. This scholarship program provides support to pre-law advisors from diverse or underrepresented groups and to advisors providing pre-law advising services at institutions that serve students from diverse and underrepresented populations from within the legal profession. The Dr. Donald P. Racheter Mock Trial Invitational at Central College will continue to host over a dozen schools from across the country to compete annually.

Don's family, friends, colleagues, and students will greatly miss him not only for all the ways he lent his expertise to the betterment of all those around him, but also for his good-natured humor, his dependable character, and his cheerful companionship.