

# Carl Frederick Eiberger II

Article and photographs  
provided by **Mary Eiberger**,  
Carl's daughter

*For those of you who have lived in the neighborhood for 20 years or so, you have probably met or heard of Carl Eiberger. Carl is an accomplished attorney and judge who rose up from extreme poverty in Denver. Over his decades-long career, he has been designated one of the few top lawyers and judges in the world. Pages of accolades are available about Carl, but I will hit on the highlights as to where he came from, his family, and his work. One notable pro bono project spanned 25 years and is something that all residents of Applewood can be thankful for: the preservation of North and South Table mountains. I have not met Carl as his health has been declining for the last several years, but he still communicates over email and keeps me up to date on what is going on in his world. I appreciate your emails, Carl, and look forward to receiving them.*

Carl is a native of Colorado and grew up in the slums of Barclay on Larimer Street. His family lived in an alley and was very poor. They went hungry and only got hot water once a week. With only one leg and a third-grade education, Carl's dad struggled to provide for the family. However, his mom graduated from Glockner Penrose Nursing School in Colorado Springs and served the community for over 40 years. Both were loving and supportive parents, Carl says. At 9 years old, he sold newspapers for two cents per paper. The family could not afford a bicycle so Carl delivered all the papers on foot. By 14, he was a warehouseman and made 35 cents an hour. Since the age of 14, Carl has basically been on his own.

Carl's family broke up and he lived with his mother close to St. Joseph's High School at the end of the 6th Avenue viaduct. Carl attended the Denver school from 1943 to 1947. St. Joseph's was established in 1908 and has always been known for its academic prestige, and culturally diverse community and student body. The majority of people couldn't afford to go to school in the North or West part of Denver and St. Joe's elementary school accepted all walks of life, including Mike and Jim Leprino, who are now billionaires. St. Joe's successfully grew from the basement of the church, later reaching all



The Eiberger family growing up in Applewood around 1976.  
Carl III, Margurette, Jim, Carl II, Eileen, and Mary.

grades, kindergarten through 12th. Carl is proud to be an alumnus of St. Joe's. It provided him with a solid foundation to live his dream of helping others. Carl graduated valedictorian for eight Catholic high schools in 1948 and won eight scholarships for eight Catholic high schools to help pay for his college. He declined a full-ride to Princeton to go to Notre Dame.

Carl was the first of his dad's family to graduate from grade school. Imagine how proud the family was when Carl decided he would go to Notre Dame University to attend law school! But completing his education didn't come easy. Carl worked as a garbage man all through college and law school — six years — for 70 cents an hour. He slept in the basement of the law school and begged for meal tickets.

His hard work and dedication paid off. In 1952, Carl graduated with a chemistry degree and undergraduate law degree. In 1954, he graduated with a Juris Doctorate Degree. Both degrees were *magna cum*

*laude*. He was in the top 10 of the graduates in 1952 and in law in 1954. Carl was also named one of 25 outstanding law graduates in the United States by the Department of Justice in 1954.

In 1954, Carl became an attorney in Michigan and Colorado. On fall vacations, he worked in Michigan. Carl still practices law to this day – 64 years later. An amazing article was published in the Denver Post on May 30, 1954, by Red Fenwick who quoted Carl Sr. as saying, “It’s not where you live, but how you live that matters.” Carl Jr. always has lived for others. Carl’s father (Carl Eiberger Sr.) had sent long letters to Red about Carl Jr. and the past he came from and how he was going to graduate *magna cum laude* from Notre Dame. Old Carl (as Red called him) was excited to attend Carl Jr.’s graduation. A few weeks later, young Carl sent a letter to Red. He, too, was proud that he had accomplished all that his father and mother had desired. Sadly, his father passed away six weeks before attending his graduation.

After college, Carl served in the Army for eight years as a combat medic sacrificing a second U.S. Circuit Court clerkship. Carl held top-secret classification in the Korean War as he worked on a project as an attorney. Carl received his fourth degree during this time, an MBA, also *magna cum laude*, from Denver University (1959) by attending night classes for two years on the GI Bill.

Over the next several decades, Carl handled legal cases in Colorado, across the United States, and throughout the world. He worked for big and small corporations with some of these cases having a worldwide effect, with topics such as toxic shock and soft contact lenses. Carl served as the main attorney for the Denver Post for 38 years. He donated 25 years of legal work and dedication to preserving the North and South Table mesas in Golden as open space, otherwise known as the “Gateway to the Rockies,” said the Denver Post. Carl gave \$1.3 million in pro bono counsel to preserve South Table Mountain from becoming a quarry mine. He made a point to do pro bono work to help community causes and has completed more than \$2 million of pro bono work for others. Carl was also a founding



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Carl walking his daughter, Mary, down the aisle at her wedding in 2017.

member of the Applewood Athletic Club. He was the creator of Applewood Park and 11 parks with Prospect Recreation and Parks District. Carl has been involved with the Notre Dame Alumni Association for over 60 years.

For his service to others, Carl has received countless designations and awards from the community and Notre Dame over his long life. The list includes a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community, United States Congress (2017); Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award (2017); Lifetime Achievement Award, Notre Dame Club of Denver (2016); Eisenhower Citizen Ambassador of the U.S. to China, Silent Hero of Notre Dame (2006); and Distinguished Service and Lifetime Award, University of Notre Dame, The Law School (2002). Carl has been featured in a number of Marquis *Who's Who* publications, including *Who's Who in America*, *American Law*, *the West*, and *the World*. Carl has been featured in editions consistently since the 1980s.

### Family First

Carl's philosophy was **work hard for others**, and play hard too. Carl built two homes in Applewood with his late wife, Margurette. They designed their first home in 1958 and their second in 1977. The first home was on Willow Way and the second home was on Kendrick St. Carl now lives off Foothill Rd. Carl met Margurette while attending Cathedral Club singles in Denver. They were avid dancers and Carl loves to dance! Carl has lived in Applewood most of his adult life — now on Fairview Lane for 35 years.

All of his children attended Maple Grove Elementary school, Manning Junior High and Wheat Ridge High School. Carl wanted them to have a better life than he had while growing up and always made time for them. One of his daughters, Mary, has a favorite memory of swimming laps with her dad at Rolling Hills Country Club. Mary remembers that her dad would always be working on his law briefs, but would take time out to swim with her.

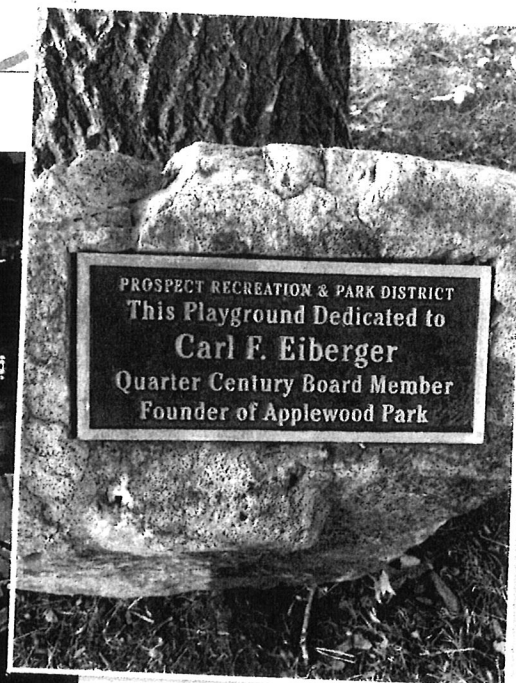
Some of Carl's favorite memories are snow skiing with the family during the winter and water skiing



Carl and his daughter, Eileen, skiing in Breckenridge around 1980.



Carl with his sons Jim (left) and Carl III (right).



with the family during the summers. Carl learned to snow ski at age 50 and skied until he was 78 years old. Carl water skied his whole life and only stopped once he turned 80! The family took annual vacations to Lake Powell and loved to water ski there. All six family members used to load into a station wagon to travel across the country every summer. Carl is a huge history buff and loved traveling through states while learning their history and teaching his children.

All three of Carl's children live in Colorado. Mary, Jim, and Carl III are all successful in their business and community life. Mary is a science teacher, tutor, and whitewater kayak coach. Jim is a real estate developer and a Ski Patrol volunteer for 10 years. He also lectures on difficult outdoor emergency care and medical response. Carl III has represented

Colorado and the United States in waterskiing and water sports and was an intercollegiate, Colorado, Western Region and National Champion. Carl III also developed and built a lake to teach others. Carl's daughter Eileen is deceased. Taryn, Eileen's daughter, is getting married in October in Georgia and the family is looking forward to this occasion.

With five terminal illnesses, Carl Jr. has been very sick for the last several years, and at 88 years old, is home or hospital bound. He can't talk on the phone because of substantial hearing loss but loves visitors! **If you would like to reach out to Carl, please feel free to email him at [carleiberger@comcast.net](mailto:carleiberger@comcast.net).**



If you have a desire to let your neighbors know more about you or your family in an upcoming issue of the *Views from Applewood*, please contact Kim Naughtin at [applewoodphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:applewoodphotos@yahoo.com).