



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Aug. 29, 2014**

### *KENNER CITY ATTORNEY LOUIS GRUNTZ JR. DIES; KENNER FLAGS LOWERED TO HALF-MAST*

**Kenner, LA.** – Kenner City Attorney Louis Gruntz, Jr., who joined the city in February after more than 30 years in the Jefferson Parish Attorney’s Office, died on Friday. He was 67.

Mr. Gruntz replaced former Kenner City Attorney and current At-Large Councilman Keith Conley, who decided in January to pursue an opportunity in private practice, before then qualifying for an at-large seat.

During his time in Jefferson Parish, Mr. Gruntz was a part-time assistant Parish Attorney, a full-time Assistant Parish Attorney supervisor and Interim Parish Attorney. He was Jefferson’s Deputy Parish Attorney when he retired.

Ironically, he was first hired to work in Jefferson Parish in 1981 under the administration of Joseph S. Yenni by Parish Attorney Hubert Vondenstein, who also had served as Kenner City Attorney under Joe Yenni. In all, Mr. Gruntz served under seven parish presidents.

In addition, Mr. Gruntz was a practicing attorney for more than 35 years. During his legal career, he served as the president of the Louisiana Parish Attorney’s Association from 1995-97 and won the Joseph S. Yenni Award for Outstanding Service in 1999.

“I am deeply saddened by the death of Louis Gruntz and my deepest condolences go out to his family,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. “He was much more than an advisor and city attorney, he was a personal friend.

“Louis was often the voice of reason, a wise leader who could convince even his fiercest critics that his arguments had merit. Louis enjoyed mentoring others and would willingly share his knowledge with those who were rising in the legal ranks. He understood the value of building bridges of understanding. He could disagree without ever provoking a battle. Louis Gruntz was a great man with a great deal of generosity. He will be missed by me and our Kenner family.”

In a recent article in the *Kenner Star*, Gruntz introduced himself as the new City Attorney and recalled an early legal ethics lesson he never forgot.

“Forty years ago, as a young first year law student, my legal ethics professor introduced me to the term *noblesse oblige*. As it pertains to the legal profession, it means that we as lawyers have an obligation to always strive to serve the public good.”

Gruntz was a proud graduate of Jesuit High School and had a passion for genealogy. He also was a World War II enthusiast who wrote the book: “A Tank Gunner’s Story: CPL Gruntz of the 712<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion” about the experiences of his father during the war. Mr. Gruntz was set to address the World War II Discussion Group at the East Bank Regional Library next week to talk about his father’s account of his wartime experience, collected while standing on the exact sites where his father battled, was wounded and saw friends killed in Normandy.

Yenni has ordered that all flags in the city of Kenner be lowered to half-mast as a tribute to Gruntz.

Gruntz is survived by five children: Louis III, Cory, Rochelle, David and Rebecca, seven grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were incomplete Friday.

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