

## James Henry Muirhead



**Date of Birth:** 24 April 1925

**Place of Birth:** Adelaide SA

**Parents:** H M Muirhead (Police Magistrate)

**Education:** St Peter's College SA  
University of Adelaide

**Spouse:** Married Margaret (née Frayne)  
4 February 1950  
3 sons, 1 daughter

### **Military Service:**

Australian Imperial Force 1943-1946  
57<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion  
Bougainville New Guinea  
37<sup>th</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion Rabaul New Britain

### **Employment History:**

Barrister and solicitor with Thomson, Buttrose,  
Ross & Lewis 1950-1969  
Judge Local and District Criminal Court of SA 1970-1972  
Acting Judge Supreme Court of PNG 1972-1973  
Acting Director responsible for establishing Australian  
Institute of Criminology in Canberra 1973-1974  
Judge Supreme Court of the Northern Territory 1974-1985  
Acting Chief Justice 1985  
Judge Federal Court of Australia 1977-1987  
Resident Judge Federal Court of WA 1986-1987  
Acting Judge Supreme Court of Northern Territory 1987  
Appointed to act in absence of Administrator and Chief  
Justice 19 December 1980 to 17 January 1981 and  
29 September 1982 to 3 October 1982  
Residential Judge of the NT Supreme Court  
Appointed Acting Administrator with a dormant  
commission 4 February 1983  
Acted in the office of Administrator from 5 February 1983  
to 6 March 1983, 7 August 1985 to 24 September 1985  
Royal Commissioner Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths  
in Custody 1987  
Appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory  
1 July 1989  
Retired 4 December 1992

### **Qualifications, Appointments and Admissions**

Admitted to the Bar 1950  
Queen's Counsel 1967

**Subsequent Career:** Retired to Perth WA  
WA Patron of Menzies School of Health Research  
Ministerial Advisor Council on Veterans Issues 1993-1994  
Died on 20 July 1999 State Funeral held in Darwin

**Honours and Awards:** 1939-1945: Star  
Pacific Star  
War Medal  
Australian Service Medal 1939-1945  
Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977  
Knight of Grace of the Order of St John (KStJ) 1989  
Appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)  
in the General Division 1991

**Memorials:** Muirhead Chambers Darwin