

Inducted January 2012

Nils Andreas Boe, Governor, Judge and Presidential aide

(1913-1992)

Boe was born in [Baltic](#) in [Minnehaha County, South Dakota](#). He was the son of Lutheran minister Nils N. Boe and Sissel Catherine Finseth, both immigrants from Norway. He was a graduate of Sioux Falls Washington High School and the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) (1935), where he was a member of the track team, and the [University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School](#) (1937). Boe served as a [Lieutenant](#) in the [U.S. Navy](#) during [World War II](#).

Governor of South Dakota—1965-1969 The Boe administration improved the state's [recreation](#) system, enacted a worker training program to attract new industry to South Dakota, increased state aid to schools, and created a retirement program for state employees. The administration also was noteworthy for advocating property tax cuts and starting the state's educational television system. The legislature also passed laws prohibiting employment discrimination against women and guaranteeing women equal wages for equal work.

Federal judicial career Boe was nominated to the USCC by President [Richard Nixon](#). He was commissioned as [chief judge](#) on [August 10, 1971](#). He served as chief judge through 1977. He was reassigned to the Court of International Trade when the Customs Court was dissolved, receiving his commission on [November 1, 1980](#). He assumed [senior status](#) on [April 30, 1984](#), serving in that capacity until his death on [July 30, 1992](#).

While serving on the Customs Court, Judge Boe issued several notable decisions, including a sharply worded rebuke of Mr. Nixon in 1974. The President had ordered a 10 percent surcharge on all import duties to reduce the nation's trade deficit, a move that generated \$500 million in four months. But a three-judge panel led by Judge Boe ruled that the power to impose such a surcharge rested with Congress and that Mr. Nixon had overstepped his authority. *Ordered Imposition of Duties*

"Expedience cannot justify the means by which a deserving and beneficial national result is accomplished," Judge Boe wrote in that case. "To indulge in judicial rationalization in order to sanction the exercise of power where no power in fact exists is to strike the deadliest of blows to our Constitution."

Professional career

Special investigator, State's Attorney Office, Minnehaha County, South Dakota, 1937-1940
Deputy state's attorney, Minnehaha, County, South Dakota, 1941-1942
U.S. Navy Lieutenant senior grade, 1942-1946
Private practice, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 1946-1965
Member, South Dakota House of Representatives, 1953-1955
Member and speaker, South Dakota House of Representatives, 1957-1959
State lieutenant governor, South Dakota, 1963-1965
State Governor, South Dakota, 1965-1969
Assistant director, Office of Emergency Preparedness, U.S. Government, 1969-1971
Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, 1969-1971

the Boe Forum on Public Affairs

Begun in 1995, the Boe Forum is made possible through the generous support of the late South Dakota Governor and Federal Judge Nils Boe and his sisters Borghild and Lois. The Boe family established an endowment at Augustana College for the Center for Western Studies that supports a major lecture series in perpetuity. It was Governor Boe's wish that issues of current national concern be brought before the people of this region to be discussed and examined by knowledgeable and experienced speakers. The forums are free and open to the public. Speakers have included Colin Powell, George H. W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, John Major, Barbara Bush, Desmond Tutu, Queen Noor, Susan Dentzer, Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani, L. Paul Bremer, Al Gore, Vicente and Marta Fox, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Pervez Musharraf.

