

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

RICK M. JOHNSON

NOVEMBER 17, 1994

Richard Martin Johnson was the eldest of five children born to Mary Catherine "Mae" Martin Johnson and the late Herbert James Johnson. His four siblings, Joyce O'Connor of Jackson, and Jim, Pat and Michael Johnson of Memphis, survive him. His brother Michael is also an attorney and practices with Legal Services in Shelby County.

Rick was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 28, 1943. He later moved to Nashville and attended Father Ryan where in his senior year (1961) he consistently started as a guard (#34) in each Purple Panther basketball game. Father Ryan had a winning season that year, in great part because of a "zone press" effectively applied by Rick and his team mates Jimmy Reese, Bubba Mayo, Johnny Mogan and Tom Curley.

After his graduation from Father Ryan, Rick attended Middle Tennessee State University, then transferred to the University of Tennessee. He graduated from U.T. in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Business.

On December 19, 1966, Rick heeded the call of our country (and his upbringing) and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a private first class (E-2). During December of 1967 after receiving OCS, MCS and TBS training in Quantico and Officer Leadership School in Denang, 2nd Lieutenant Johnson, now age 23 years, was placed in charge of 40 Marine infantrymen. He was a platoon commander of Third Platoon, Mike Company, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines Regiment, First Marines Division. His combat duty in Vietnam lasted thirteen months and when Rick was promoted to first lieutenant, he became the Company

Commander of Mike Company, a Marine Rifle Company. Normally a captain held such a responsible position, not a first lieutenant. Rick served as the company commander for all of 1968, the year of the Tet Offensive. Although he went out on many squad ambushes when he did not have to, he was never injured, an unusual fact for Marine officers or riflemen at that time. During this time Rick's leadership was such that three of his squad leaders, Jerry Chong, Jim Hastings and Mac McCrosson, sought him out twenty five years after that tumultuous time to say "thank-you" for his leadership and skills which they assert saved many Marine lives. After leaving Vietnam, Rick served as Company Commander and Executive Officer of Camp LeJune.

After completing his active duty commitment in June of 1970, he recommenced his civilian life and attended law school at the Nashville School of Law while working as a probation officer at Juvenile Court. Rick often mentioned that he could not have completed his law studies but for Judge Jenkins' (unofficial) "work-study" philosophy. After receiving his J.D. in 1974, he entered private practice with Ralph Gordon, Tommy Martin, Michael Mossman and Dick Clark. His friendships with these men was evident from the practical jokes played on one another such as the time Mr. Gordon put a piranha in Rick's fish tank and Rick couldn't immediately figure out why all of his fish, except one which had experienced phenomenal growth, had disappeared. The speaker would delight in telling Rick risque jokes because Rick was such a gentleman he would blush at a woman speaking such words.

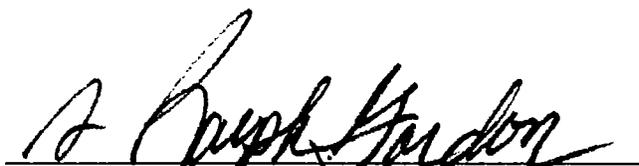
In the early '80s, his real estate practice flourishing, Rick moved his office to South Nashville where he continued his practice until his untimely death, associating with Mr. Clark, your speaker and several other attorneys at

3221 Nolensville Road. During his eighteen years as a title agent for Stewart Title, he never had a claim made for any of his title searches, which as many of know is incredible given the frantic pace of such a practice.

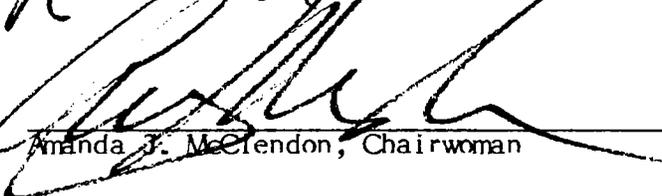
Given his commitment to God, Country, family, friends and community, it is appropriate that Rick died at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. one day after Veteran's day. He was fifty years old at the time of his death.

Rick M. Johnson was an honorable man. His ability to be a team player is evident throughout his life through his loyalty and faithfulness to his high school basketball team, his Marine comrades and his several long term legal associates. However, the greatest tribute to his life is his family, his wife of fifteen years, Deborah Whittaker Johnson and his children, Michael and Leigh Ann Johnson. Because of Debby's perseverance in keeping their family on track in the year since Rick's death, Michael has continued playing with the basketball team Rick coached for two years and Leigh Ann has nearly completed her first semester as a freshman at Belmont University.

Respectfully submitted,


S. Ralph Gordon


Richard R. Clark


Amanda J. McClendon, Chairwoman