

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
JACK AKIN BUTLER**

Jack Butler was known by many names; next to his name on his court filings he was known by a number, a very low BPR number of 2838. To the thousands of clients he represented in his 50-year-long practice of law, he was known as Mr. Jack. To the thousands of students he taught at the Nashville School of Law, he was known as Professor Butler. To the many young men and women he led in the Air National Guard, he was known as Major Butler. To his wife of 61 years, his three children, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, he was known as Papa. To those who worked with him in the court system, co-workers and attorneys, he was known as a friend and a mentor and an inspiration.

Jack Akin Butler died at the age of 80 on December 7, 2017 after a long battle with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. He did not want to give up on life nor did he want to give up his law practice. According to his daughter, every time Jack was hospitalized, she would go to clean out his office and, every time he was released from the hospital, he would return back to work. In the later years, it became difficult for Jack to walk from his office to the Birch Building. You could sometimes find Jack resting on a bench in Public Square, dressed sharp as a tack, on his way back from court. When he became too ill to go to the office and court, he insisted on having a table set up at home so he could continue his practice. He loved his practice of law because he loved to help people. According to his daughter, he loved most helping people that needed help the most; those who did not have resources, cases that were not strong and were turned away by other lawyers. Those were Jack's favorite clients.

Jack Butler never went anywhere without a legal pad or a pen. He was a paper and pen lawyer. To visit his office was an event in and of itself; piled high with paper and pads Jack Butler's office was in a word – a mess. He did not appear computerized nor did it appear he had a filing system, but he did seem to know where everything was. According to his daughter, he collected pens because the first time he appeared in court he realized he did not have a pen.

Jack also loved the court system itself; socializing with other lawyers, judges, clerks, and members of the courthouse staff. For Jack Butler the courthouse was his second family. To the courthouse, Jack Butler was a father figure.

Jack Butler not only affected the lives of the people he represented, he also affected the lives of the people he taught. He was the youngest attorney to become a professor at the Nashville School of Law when, in 1968, at the age of 31, he was asked to teach fourth year Moot Court. Professor Butler taught for 45 years, influencing the lives of approximately 4,000 young attorneys.

Professor Butler was tough on his students. According to his daughter, he was tough on his students because he did not want his students to go into a courtroom unprepared. Justice Koch, Dean of the Nashville School of Law, also remembers that Professor Butler not only helped his students in the classroom, but also out of the classroom once they graduated; offering many students a desk in his office and a case to help them get started.

Major Butler served his state and his country for 20 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard. Rising to the rank of Major he served as Director of Security, Director of Intelligence, Director of Riot Control Training, and Director of the Firing Range.

It was while attending Montgomery Bell Academy that Jack met his high school sweetheart, Martha Lasley. They were married for 61 years. Jack was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He loved providing his family opportunities to experience all aspects of life; whether it was through flying, spending time on the lake on his houseboat, playing golf, tennis, or racket ball, he loved to spend time with his family.

Jack Butler left this earth after 80 years, leaving it a better place for his clients, his friends, his co-workers, and his students. He was a mentor and father figure to both his students and his fellow lawyers. He was an institution at the Birch Building. Mr. Jack, Professor Butler, Major Butler, Pappa will be missed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nashville Bar Association that we honor the life and work of Jack Akin Butler and greatly mourn the passing of a gentleman lawyer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Memorial Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Nashville Bar Association and entered in the "In Memoriam" Minute Book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, and that copies thereof be furnished to members of his family.

It is hereby GRANTED, and therefore ORDERED, this 24th day of May, 2018.



CHANCELLOR

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this 24th day of May, 2018.



Jim Todd