

WILLIAM M. LEECH, JR.  
1935-1996

Bill Leech served his country as a soldier in the Army in Germany during the Cold War and as a lawyer who devoted his professional life to upholding the Constitution. Bill loved his native state and served it as presiding officer of its Constitutional Convention of 1971 and a member in 1977, and as its Attorney General and Reporter from 1978 to 1984.

Bill Leech loved the practice of law and his fellow lawyers. Many other opportunities came his way, but he chose to make the practice of law his life's work. He respected other lawyers and was never discourteous to a Court. His word was his bond. Any lawyer in trouble could get help from Bill. Many did.

Bill loved the outdoors and spent his happiest days working on his farm, fishing Jones Creek, following his bird dogs, and riding in Civil War enactments with his son.

Bill loved his family--his wife, Donna, his daughter, Anna who preceded him in death, his daughters, Becca and Katie, his son, Will, and grandson, Hank, and always found time in his busy life to be with them.

The lawyers and staff members of Waller Lansden miss his quiet humor, wise counsel, and gentle compassion. All his friends--of which there are many here today--miss him. It is to honor and remember his life and work that we, the resolutions committee, submit this memorial to Bill Leech in their names.

This 31st day of October, 1996.

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Chancellor

Approved for Entry:

WILLIAM M. LEECH, JR. MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

Charles A. Trost  
Charles A. Trost, Esq., on Behalf  
of Himself and the Firm of Waller  
Lansden Dortch & Davis, PLLC

Thomas H. Peebles III  
Thomas H. Peebles, III, Esq.

Hal D. Hardin  
Hal D. Hardin, Esq.

Mary Martin Schaffner  
Mary Martin Schaffner, Esq.

Thomas A. Higgins  
Honorable Thomas A. Higgins

*Memorial Resolution  
for*

*William M. Leech, Jr.  
1935 - 1996*

*William M. Leech, Jr. was born and reared in Charlotte, Tennessee. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Tennessee Technological University in 1958, where he was a member of the varsity football team. He then spent four years as a high school teacher and coach and two years in the United States Army before attending The University of Tennessee Law School and earning his law degree in 1966. Upon graduation, Bill Leech practiced law in Columbia, where he became Assistant District Attorney for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee from 1967-70, Municipal Judge for the City of Columbia from 1970-72, and President of the Maury County Bar Association. In 1971, he was elected as a delegate to and President of the Tennessee Limited Constitutional Convention. He was also elected as a delegate to the 1977 Tennessee Constitutional Convention.*

*Bill Leech was appointed by Tennessee's Supreme Court Justices as State Attorney General and Reporter in 1978, where he served with honor and distinction until returning to the private practice of law in 1984. General Leech brought innovation, wisdom and courage to the Office of Attorney General. During his tenure, he expanded the office into numerous new areas of law, including antitrust, consumer protection and environment. During General Leech's tenure as Tennessee's Attorney General, the State experienced many trying events. He approached each event with the thoughtfulness and sound judgment that were the trademarks of his extraordinary life. General Leech is widely regarded as the most influential and respected of the State's modern Attorney Generals.*

*In 1987, he was named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the most prestigious awards of the profession. General Leech was selected Master of the Bench of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, and a Fellow of the Tennessee and American Bar Foundations. In private practice he was a senior partner of the law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis. He was also serving as Chairman of both Tennessee's Post-Conviction Defense Commission and Indigent Defense Commission at the time of his death.*

*Often describing himself as a "simple country lawyer," or introducing himself in Court as "Bill Leech of the Santa Fe Bar," General Leech brought dignity, integrity, courage, and honor to the*

*private practice of law and to the practice of law as a public servant. During General Leech's public and private practice, he appeared several times before the United States Supreme Court and frequently before the Tennessee Supreme Court. He appeared before the courts of this State on behalf of some of the country's largest corporations as well as small business people and farmers. General Leech's reputation for taking on pro bono work is legendary. His representation of unpopular causes and individuals serve as continuing reminders of his unshakable commitment to equal justice for all under the law and his unwavering commitment to upholding and defending the Tennessee and United States Constitutions. His charisma and persuasiveness in the courtroom, his allegiance to the State of Tennessee, his love of the law, his well-earned respect among the judiciary, fellow lawyers, dignitaries and those to whom General Leech referred as "regular folk," and most of all, his loyalty and devotion to his family and those who called him a friend, will live on as a tribute to his distinguished life.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life and record of William M. Leech, Jr., as a member of the Nashville Bar, we and the City of Nashville generally have been honored and blessed, and in his passing we have sustained a grievous, personal loss; that this Memorial Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered on the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County; and that copies hereof be furnished to the members of General Leech's family, Mrs. William M. Leech, Jr., Mrs. William M. Leech, Sr., Mrs. John Whittemore, Mrs. Patrick Parker and Mr. William M. Leech, III.*

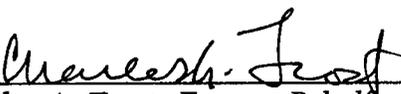
*This 31st day of October, 1996.*

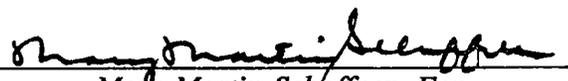
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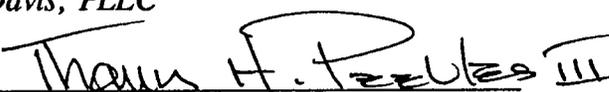
Chancellor

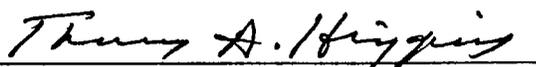
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**WILLIAM M. LEECH, JR. MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:**

  
 Charles A. Trost, Esq. on Behalf of Himself  
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 Honorable Thomas A. Higgins

  
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