

5/1/92

Judge Robert Emmitt Lillard was born on March 23, 1907, in Trimble Springs Bottom in South Nashville. He spent his entire lifetime in Nashville and was educated here. Because he always aspired to be a lawyer, he enrolled in Biggins Commercial College and from there he attended Kent College of Law. He received his law degree from Kent in 1936. He was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1936, Federal District Court in 1955, the Circuit Court of Appeals in 1957 and the Supreme Court in 1962.

Judge Lillard was employed by the Metropolitan Fire Department from 1936 until 1950, during which time he also maintained a part-time private law practice. In 1950 he established a full-time practice and also began a career in politics. He served on the Nashville City Council from 1951 to 1963 and on the Metropolitan Council from 1963 to 1971. He was appointed to the Tennessee State Board of Paroles in 1964 and reappointed in 1967. In 1978, he was appointed Judge of the First Circuit Court of Davidson County, becoming the first black judge of a Circuit Court in the County.

His professional memberships were many. He served as the only two term president in the history of the National Bar Association from 1961 - 1963 and was one of the founders of the J. C. Napier Lawyer's Association, which later became the Napier-Looby Bar Association. He was a member of the American Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations, American Judicature

Society, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church, American Federation of Labor, Protective Order of Elks and Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He also served as Divisional Chairman for the United Givers Fund, March of Dimes and American Red Cross and was on the Boards of the Boy Scouts Century Club, Historical Landmarks Association, Legal Services, Inc., Boys Club and Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments.

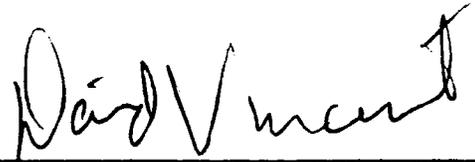
A great man once opined that before one passes judgment on the quality of another's accomplishments, one should know the obstacles that person had to overcome. Judge Lillard's love of the law and desire to serve drove him to his many accomplishments. He will be remembered for his service, for his willingness to train younger lawyers and, not the least, for his full-bodied bass voice which made him such an effective advocate and formidable adversary.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Nashville Bar Association laments the passing of Judge Robert Emmitt Lillard on November 6, 1991, but takes pride in his accomplishments as citizen, lawyer, councilman, and judge.

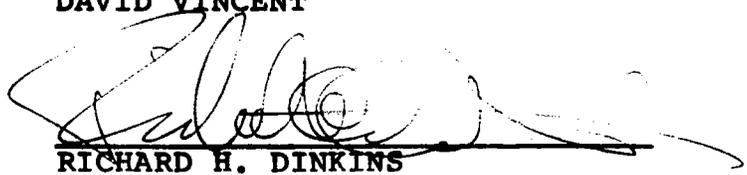
Done at Nashville, Tennessee, this the ____ day of November, 1991.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE


THE HONORABLE A. A. BIRCH, JR.



DAVID VINCENT



RICHARD H. DINKINS



FLOYD N. PRICE