

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
JOHN SHELTON LUTON
1906-1997

JOHN SHELTON LUTON, better known as **JUDGE LUTON**, was born in Davidson County, Tennessee in 1906 and lived here until his death on February 5, 1997.

During the more than 50 years since his graduation from Vanderbilt Law School in 1930, Judge Luton served in Nashville's legal community except for five years when he was counsel for the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation. He also served for a time as Deputy Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court and stands in the unique position, with the advent of the Metropolitan Government, of being the last person ever to serve as County Attorney for Davidson County and the first person ever to serve as Davidson County Probate Judge.

Whoever observes the operation of Tennessee's Judicial system over a period of years sees an occasional media furore over the lack of symmetry and uniformity in our Judicial system—the fact that in some counties there is a departure from the norm by the creation of a Court of Law and Equity and in others a General Sessions Court has been vested with divorce jurisdiction. These occurrences are no mystery, as is demonstrated by Nashville's experience with Judge Shelton Luton. Now and then, when it is observed that a Judge has exceptional abilities, it naturally occurs to the community that his jurisdiction should be expanded. In this manner, while Judge Luton presided, the very limited jurisdiction of the Probate Court was expanded by having added to it the right to share Chancery jurisdiction and then Circuit Court jurisdiction and then Criminal jurisdiction, so that today, the Davidson County Probate Court probably has the broadest field of jurisdiction of any trial Court in the state.

Judge Luton was active in both professional and personal community life, having served for many years on the faculty of the YMCA Night Law School, having been a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, a Sunday School teacher, Chairman of the official Board and President of the Men's Club at Belmont United Methodist Church and President of the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club.

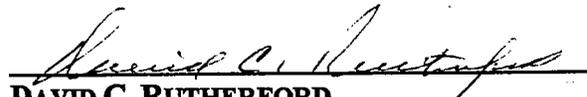
Judge Luton was a man of good humor and as a Judge he was wise, moderate in his reaction to Courtroom tempests, and always sought the guidance of the law in rendering judgments, instead of using law to implement his philosophy.

ACCORDINGLY, the Committee respectfully expresses the collective judgment of The Nashville Bar that the City and its legal community were honored and blessed by the life of Judge Shelton Luton and have sustained a grievous personal loss in his passing. We accordingly move the

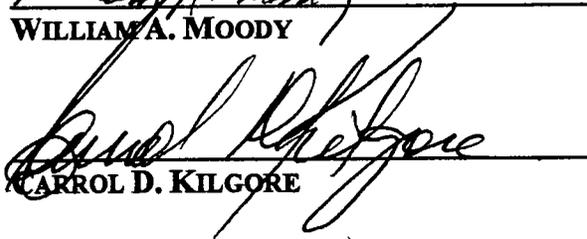
Court to receive and approve this report and order it preserved in the appropriate Minute Book of the Davidson County Chancery Court.

This 20th day of November, 1997.


HONORABLE FRANK G. CLEMENT, JR.


DAVID C. RUTHERFORD


WILLIAM A. MOODY


CARROL D. KILGORE