

R E S O L U T I O N

Judge J. William Rutherford, or Bill Rutherford, as he was known by his many friends, relatives and fellow members of the Bar, was born in Nashville on December 29th, 1934, the first son of a family steeped in rich legal tradition and background.

Bill attended East High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. Probably, knowing Bill as we did, he was more proud of his athletic accomplishments. He would continue to exhibit these same attributes later in life, by receiving honors in basketball at Belmont College, and in fact, his genuine love for competitive sports would remain an important part of his life.

Bill worked for his Uncle Alf Rutherford at the Circuit Court Clerk's Office while he attended the YMCA Law School. Upon graduation, he joined his father's law firm until his election as Judge of the First Circuit Court in 1974. This judgeship fulfilled a longtime desire for Bill, since his great-uncle, Alfred G. Rutherford, had served in the First Circuit Court from 1912 until 1934.

Bill built a successful law practice and thereafter entered into the field of local politics. He was elected to the Metro Council in 1971 and remained there until he resigned to become Judge of the First Circuit Court.

While on the Council, Bill was proudest of his efforts in getting the comprehensive zoning ordinance passed. He worked hard for a number of years to get the votes to pass the ordinance, having been told by local partisans that the measure could never pass. Bill took on the challenge, the ordinance passed and the citizens of Nashville benefited.

The achievements and repeated successes of Bill Rutherford are borne out by what his friends and colleagues thought of him.

The Bill we knew, however, was far more than a lawyer, an athlete, a pilot, a councilman, a Judge - he was also a friend, a father, and a person with genuine compassion for his fellow man.

Bill always had time for the "little man," and during his active law practice, he was known to have handled many cases for no fee, because of his desire to help the needy.

There are many interesting stories to tell about this man. Some are humorous, some are sad. I like to remember his proud accomplishments and I hope we can all recall some of the humorous stories, such as events that occurred on his Florida golf trips, the Tuesday night "Board Meeting," landing his airplane in a cornfield. How many stories there are.

Bill was deeply concerned with what others thought of him and usually felt he should do more for those that depended on his advice and friendship. Many people, some here today, know exactly how much of a friend Bill was - how willing he was to go the extra mile.

For himself, Bill never thought that he was very special. He thought of his achievements as somehow coming about in spite of himself. But his friends know better.

In the pace of today's society, time quickly marches on. Changes take place and old friends are forgotten. Bill was an unobtrusive person; a recent newspaper article referred to him as "the tall, gangly, pipe-smoking judge." In his own characteristic way, he made an impact that will long be remembered by those that cared about him.

Bill had a plaque on his desks that read, "Love is a memory that time cannot end." I know in the hearts of the Nashville Bar Association that the memory of Bill Rutherford will live on forever.

Respectfully Submitted,

NASHVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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