

ORDER FILED & ENTERED 5/1/92  
MINUTE BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

HOMER FRANCIS STEWART

1915 - 1991

H. Francis Stewart died in Nashville on July 16, 1991. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 26, 1915 to Homer Clifford and Velma Ruff Stewart. His mother died when he was an infant and his father died when he was a teenager. Francis spent his early childhood in Paducah, Kentucky but returned to Arkansas when he was a teenager where he graduated from Forrest City High School in 1933. He attended Arkansas Teachers College in Conway, Arkansas and then transferred to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee Law School and obtained his law degree in 1941 and was then admitted to the Tennessee Bar.

While in college he married Nelle Dale. Francis and Nelle had four children, Nannette; Clifford Francis; Andrew Dale; and Jonathon Travis. At the time of his death Francis had 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

After completing law school, Francis worked for American Mutual Liability Insurance Company as a Claims Attorney in Greenville, South Carolina. His career was interrupted in 1943 when he entered the United States Navy. He spent most of his active duty as Commander of the gun crew on the ammunition ship, the S.S. Sheldon Jackson.

Francis was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant. He continued his interest in military life in the United States Naval Reserve until 1964. During this time he served as Commanding Officer in the Naval Reserve Law Unit in Nashville.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Francis returned to his position as Claims Attorney for American Mutual. In 1947, Francis returned to Tennessee and entered the private practice of law. He started his practice with Lowe Watkins and the late Dan McGugin, Jr. The Firm became Watkins, McGugin & Stewart and then Watkins, McGugin, Stewart, Finch & McNeilly. He remained with the firm until February of 1971 when he left to organize his own firm. Francis formed a partnership with Robert L. Estes and was subsequently joined by Thomas M. Donnell, Jr. The firm of Stewart, Estes & Donnell grew into one of the larger firms in Nashville. He continued in the active practice with his firm until the time of his death.

As a mentor, Francis Stewart believed in providing young lawyers the chance to actually experience the challenge of courtroom work. His patience, understanding and willingness to teach and train will always be remembered by the members of his firm. He enjoyed both observing and participating in the career development of those attorneys with whom he worked, and he often provided words of caring encouragement to his partners and associates.

Francis was an outstanding trial Attorney specializing in insurance defense practice. He was known by his adversaries to be a dedicated trial lawyer who represented his clients exceedingly well. His aggressive but quiet and well-reasoned cross-examination is remembered by many plaintiff attorneys. During the course of his career he tried cases and handled litigation in most of the counties in the State of Tennessee. He was a member of the Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations, the International Association of Defense Counsel, the Federation of Insurance & Corporate Counsel, the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association, and both the American and Tennessee societies of hospital Attorneys.

Francis was a Mason and a member of the Al Menah Temple.

In addition to his law career, Francis was an active member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce serving as Chairman of the Education Committee for several years. During this period of time and with his untiring efforts, the University of Tennessee at Nashville became a four year degree granting university.

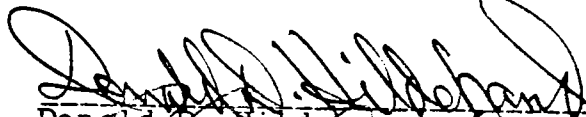
Throughout his career, Francis maintained his love for the University of Tennessee. He served on the University's Development Council during the years of rapid expansion of the University. He was a member of the University of Tennessee Century Club and was at one-time President of the local U.T. Alumni Association. He was an avid supporter of the University athletic and educational programs.

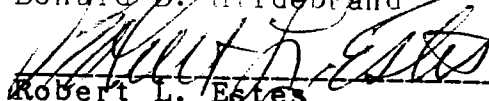
Francis was world-traveled. He and Nelle visited all corners of the world. His hobbies included collections of coins, books and photographs. He loved people and was a lawyer who always had pleasant words for everyone. He had a multitude of friends who enjoyed his company. Whether the conversation was about the legal system, politics or travel, Francis was one person whose conversation never lacked interest.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nashville Bar Association remember with affection the late H. Francis Stewart; that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Memorial Book of this Association and that a copy be furnished to his wife, Nelle.

This 26th day of November, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donald B. Hildebrand

  
Robert L. Estes

  
Thomas M. Donnell, Jr.

  
Philip M. Kirkpatrick

  
W. Warner McNeilly, Jr.