

Memorial Resolution

In Honor Of

Jordan Stokes, III

Jordan Stokes, III died on August 5, 1996 of complications from a broken hip. He lived a proud, independent, active life until the end, just four months short of his ninety-first birthday. He possessed an amazing mind and a firm belief in equality under the law.

Born on December 6, 1905, the son of Jordan Stokes, Jr. and Elsie Warren Stokes, Jordan III was a member of the fourth generation of the Stokes family to practice at the Nashville bar. His great-grandfather, Jordan Green Stokes, practiced here as early as 1838, according to the records of the Nashville Bar Association. In addition, his ancestors were members of other prominent Middle-Tennessee families, the Greens, the Whitworths and the Yarbroughs. The Whitworth family lived in a large house on Bowling Avenue in Nashville and the farm extended as far south as Hampton Avenue and Golf Club Lane. (The Whitworth home is now owned by Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr.). Jordan's great-grandfather Yarbrough, a staunch Union man, was active in public life in Nashville during the occupation of Nashville by Federal troops. His grandfather Stokes

represented Vanderbilt University in the litigation, early in this century, that ended the University's affiliation with the Methodist Church.

Jordan attended the Tarbox school in Nashville and the Massey Military Academy before enrolling at Vanderbilt University. Possessing a quick and restless mind, he entered the law school at Vanderbilt before finishing his undergraduate studies, and he passed the Bar examination in 1925 before finishing law school. Since he was only nineteen, he had to get the disability of minority removed in order to obtain his law license.

In the late twenties he lived in Big Spring, Texas at the home of an aunt and worked at a gasoline refinery. He said that scorpions and sandstorms drove him back to the green hills of Middle Tennessee. Returning to Nashville, he practiced law here until his death. He preferred to practice on his own, but he shared an office with Sanders Anglea for forty-five years before Mr. Anglea, a former vice-mayor, public defender and Metropolitan Councilman at large, retired in 1990. Their association rested on mutual respect, a love of the law, and an intense interest in public affairs.

Jordan married Mabel B. Ogden on January 31, 1931. Their two sons, Ogden and McNeill, are also leaders in the legal profession. Ogden is a senior

partner in the Nashville firm of Stokes and Bartholemew and McNeill is senior vice president of Warnaco, an international business with headquarters in New York City. Jordan is also survived by seven grandchildren. The youngest, just seven months old, is named Tinsley Jordan Stokes.

Jordan's sense of justice and his intense belief in equality led him to take on unpopular causes. In retrospect one could say that he was always several years ahead of his time. Rights for which he led the fight are now accepted as if they always existed. He served as regional counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in the 1940's when few men of his prominence and social standing were leading the fight against discrimination. He represented Myles Horton and the Highlander Folk School, withstanding threats of death or bodily harm for defending an institution that promoted racial integration. He and Sanders Anglea led the fight against the poll tax in Tennessee. He helped persuade the city to integrate the fire and police departments.

In the late 1930's Jordan began to represent the musician's union in Nashville, an association that lasted until his death. Within the union movement, Jordan fought against the exclusion of black workers and fought for the admission of country musicians to the Nashville local. To the objection of some union

members that country musicians could not even read music, Jordan replied that "They could certainly play it."

Although he fought hard for his clients, his style was not radical or confrontational. Even on sensitive racial issues he was able to resolve many disputes by negotiating a simple, practical solution.

The June 10, 1942 edition of The Tennessean reports that Jordan's family and friends had filed a petition qualifying him for the United States Senate race. He later withdrew, but actively supported Estes Kefauver in 1948 when he won the seat from Senator Tom Stewart. In 1948 Jordan also served as state chairman for Henry Wallace's progressive party. In 1952 and 1956 he served on the National Kefauver for President Committee.

In the 1950's Jordan and his long-time client and friend, Ned Carmack, operated a uranium mine in South Dakota. They later sold their interests to the federal government.

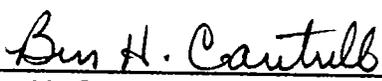
The law was not Jordan's only interest. Until his death he studied a wide range of subjects, including scientific theories, ancient siege weapons, Casanova, and how the Egyptians first estimated the diameter of the earth. In December of 1995 he presented a paper titled "Updating Darwin" to the Freolac Club of

Nashville. He also loved poetry, particularly the works of Robert Service, and he could recite long passages from his favorite works. To sum up his long and distinguished life we borrow Oliver Goldsmith's description of the village parson:

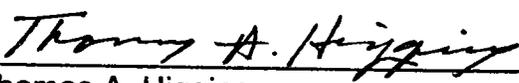
"and still they gaz'd, and still
the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry
all he knew."

By this resolution we honor the memory of Jordan Stokes, III and we convey these sentiments to his sons, Ogden and McNeill, his surviving brothers, Walter and Bart, the rest of his family, and his friends.

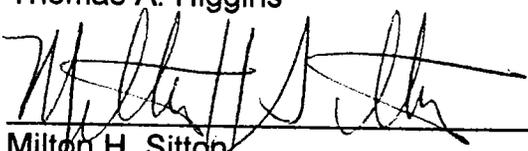
This 21st day of November, 1996.



Ben H. Cantrell



Thomas A. Higgins



Milton H. Sitton