

WILLIAM WALLER
1898-1995

With the death of William Waller in August of this year, the Nashville Bar lost one of the most outstanding lawyers in its long and storied history. Born in 1898, William Waller was the son of Judge Claude Waller, one of Nashville's most prominent attorneys, and Martha Armistead Nelson Waller. After graduating from the former Wallace Preparatory School and Vanderbilt University, William Waller joined the United States Army, serving in the field artillery in France during World War I.

William Waller was a brilliant student, graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1918 as the Founder's Medalist and Phi Beta Kappa. In 1922 he graduated from Yale University School of Law where he was one of the two members of his class to graduate magna cum laude and be chosen to be a member of the Order of the Coif. He also served on the Editorial Board of the Yale Law Journal. Throughout his life, William Waller continued his interest in scholarly pursuits and became a well known local author, writing two volumes of Nashville history-Nashville in the 1890s and Nashville, 1900-1910. For these works, Mr. Waller was a recipient of awards from both the American Association for State and Local History and the Metropolitan Historical Commission.

Following his graduation from Yale, William Waller began practicing law in Nashville in 1922 and quickly became one of the leading members of the local bar. In the late 1920s, he joined the firm that is presently known as Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis where he continued an active professional career until he was in his late eighties. Many of those who practiced with him were astounded by his ability to handle virtually every type of legal matter from criminal defenses, to sophisticated tax litigation, to business combinations and other commercial matters. He became one of the foremost estate planners in Nashville and was clearly one of the leading tax litigators in the United States, appearing in thirty-five cases involving tax issues heard by the United States Supreme Court.

William Waller was also a very important contributor to educational and civic activities in Nashville. He was a lifetime member of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust, an organizer of The Harpeth Hall School, a member of the Board of Governors of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and a member emeritus of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Despite his many outstanding accomplishments, those who were lucky enough to be counted as his friends were perhaps most impressed with his intellectual brilliance, wit and sense of humor. As well read as any citizen of Nashville, William Waller could easily converse on a wide range of topics, including classical literature, economics and international politics; and, if he chose, could carry on this conversation in a foreign language. Although

he was not one to "suffer fools gladly", he was a great fan of P.G. Wodehouse and his sense of humor and laughter were highly contagious.

His extraordinary vigor was not limited to his intellectual activities. He loved to travel and he and his wife, the former Milbrey Warner, continued to do so even after Mr. Waller became an octogenarian. In later years, new young lawyers in his firm were regularly astounded to learn that he and Mrs. Waller were either motoring through the south of France or beachcombing in the Caribbean. He was also an enthusiastic lawn bowler and introduced the sport to Nashville.

William Waller is survived by his son, William Waller, Jr., presently the senior partner of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, and a daughter, Milbrey Andrews of Nashville. He left five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

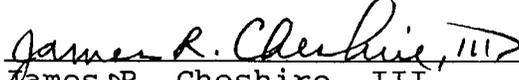
Perhaps W. B. Yeats' words, with a slight modification, can best describe this extraordinary man and member of the bar: "Soldier, scholar, [lawyer], he, and all he did done perfectly . . . " William Waller was a brilliant lawyer, a wonderful friend, a loyal partner and a good husband and father. He is greatly missed by his friends, family and former law partners alike.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life and record of William Waller as a member of the Nashville Bar, we and the City of Nashville generally have been honored and blessed, and in his passing we have sustained a grievous, personal loss; that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered on the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County; and that copies hereof be furnished to the members of Mr. Waller's family.

This 16th day of November, 1995.

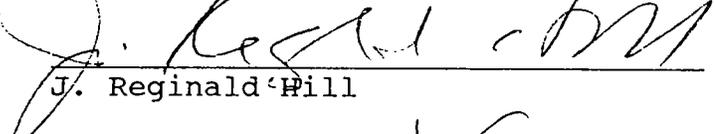

George W. Bishop III

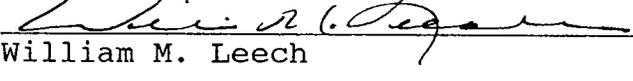

Robert E. Boston


James R. Cheshire, III

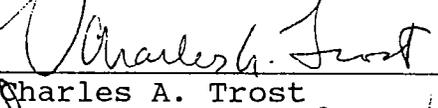

Walter H. Crouch

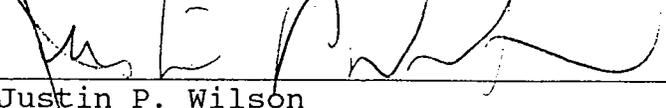

Ames Davis

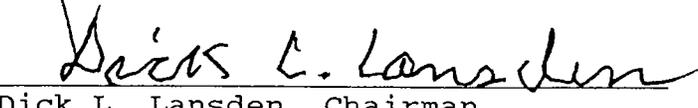

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