

**RESOLUTION HONORING AVON NYANZA WILLIAMS III  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1959 - JULY 9, 2005  
NASHVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:**

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of a towering figure of the civil rights movement and grandson of a leader of the Harlem Renaissance, Avon Nyanza Williams III came to embody both their passion and their poetry. His parents and extended family taught him and his younger sister, Wendy, to see both the reality and possibilities of life and the world in which they lived.

He received his primary and secondary education from University School of Nashville, B.A. degree from Williams College, and law degree from The University of Texas. He also studied at the University of Paris-Sorbonne and Harvard University.

On returning to Nashville, he married the writer Alice Randall, and two years later, they had a daughter, Caroline.

Mr. Williams joined the Department of State, earning commendations while representing his country in the Philippines, Martinique, and the United Nations. He subsequently served as Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development under Governor Ned Ray McWherter. He worked at J.C. Bradford & Company and NationsBank Corporation before returning to public service as General Counsel of the Tennessee Department of Safety under Governor Donald Sundquist.

He married Janita Wolfe, with whom he had three sons: Cole, Amory, and Jonah. He considered his wife's children from a previous marriage, Corey, Will, and Christopher, to be his own and showed them the same affection and concern as his other children.

While carrying on a full professional and family life, he received his MBA from Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management.

His analytical skills and intellect along with his wit and charm made him a popular analyst and commentator for Nashville newspaper, radio, and television.

At the time of his death, Mr. Williams was serving as Principal Deputy General Counsel and Acting General Counsel of the Department of the Army. In recognition of his dedicated service and abilities, President George W. Bush was in the process of nominating him to become the department's General Counsel.

Mr. Williams was passionate about serving the community. He served on the boards of many charitable organizations, including the American Red Cross (Nashville Area Chapter), Dede Wallace Healthcare Systems, Inc., Habitat for Humanity (Nashville Area), League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Monroe Harding Children's Home, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (Nashville Steering Committee), Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, and University School of Nashville. He also served on the State Executive Committee of the Tennessee Republican Party. He was a member of the Leadership Nashville Class of 1997, the Council on Foreign Relations, and American Mensa. He helped found the Andrew Jackson Institute, a public policy think tank.

The revolution in race relations that the struggle for civil rights engendered was an integral part of Mr. Williams's coming of age. His father and his father's cousin Thurgood Marshall were in the vanguard of this struggle, leading Mr. Williams to probe race relations from a highly unusual and personal perspective. Would he simply follow the lead of his father or, as a reflection of his own life's experiences, take another path—

one that would be perceived as challenging his father's legacy? In the agony of this dilemma, his personal crucible, Mr. Williams became his own man while in the most fundamental and equally important sense remaining a man after his father's and his mother's own heart.

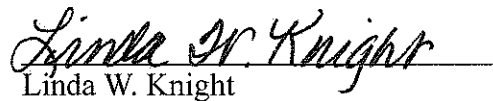
Mr. Williams deeply loved and cared for his family and friends. He was devoted to Jesus Christ above all. He was conscious of God's love for him and persistently sought to show others this same love.

We honor his accomplishments and miss his presence and the immense joy he brought to our lives.

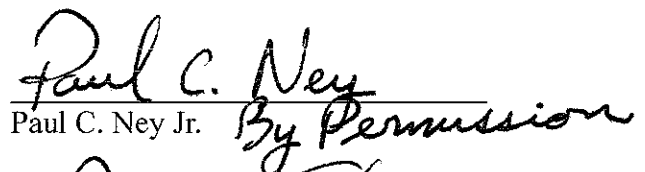
Therefore, the Memorial Committee for Avon Nyanza Williams III, believing it is fitting and proper to honor his memory, request the chancellors of the Chancery Court for the State of Tennessee Twentieth Judicial District adopt this resolution and enter it into the Minutes of the Memorial Book of the Chancery Court in the office of the Clerk and Master.

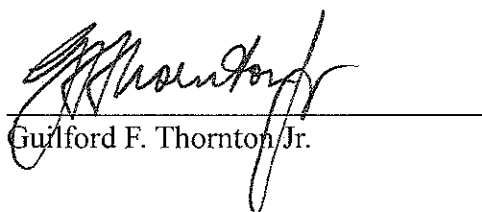
Respectfully submitted,

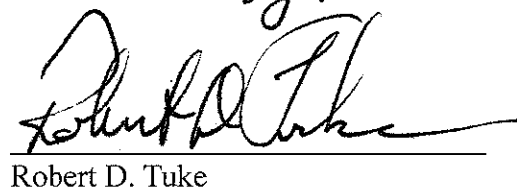
  
H. Lee Barfield II

  
Linda W. Knight

  
Thomas Lewis Nelson

  
Paul C. Ney Jr. By Permission

  
Guilford F. Thornton Jr.

  
Robert D. Tuke