

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

FOR

M. LEE SMITH

Born in 1942 at the other end of the world, Lee grew up in Johnson City, but came to Nashville to attend undergraduate and law school at Vanderbilt, from both of which he graduated and received degrees. He would later play a significant role in changing Tennessee from a Democrat controlled State to a Republican controlled State.

He was a Law Clerk for United States District Judge, William E. Miller. He was later a Legislative Assistant to Senator Howard Baker, Jr. in Washington and an Executive Assistant to Governor Winfield Dunn in Tennessee.

According to Lee, however, anybody could have done that.

As is so often the case, Lee preferred to be known and remembered for what he really enjoyed and not for the mundane.

Wednesday afternoon, October 3, 1951 was a significant day in the life of young Lee and one which he relished all of his life. Red Smith wrote that the memories of youth are long, long memories and for Lee they were. He and his cousin were listening on the radio at home in Johnson City to the playoff game between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers, played naively in daylight in the Polo Grounds at Coogan's Bluff. The Giants had come from 13 and 1/2 games back in August to tie the Dodgers for the National League pennant on the last day of the 1951 season. Don Newcombe had pitched the first 8 and 2/3rds innings. Roy Campanella was catching, Jackie Robinson was at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pee-Wee Reese was at short for the Dodgers. Leading 4-2 in the last of the 9th, Ralph Branca was brought in to relieve Newcomb. Branca served up a "gopher ball" to Bobby

Thomson, who hit the game winning homerun, later referred to as “the shot heard round the world”. A tearful Branca, the goat, never lived it down and Thomson gained baseball immortality. A then little known Willie Mays wore No. 23 that day.

Lee was a dedicated golfer and a member of the National Commodore Club. He had front row seats at Memorial Gym. In one game at Memorial, a ball bounced into his lap. The ref awarded possession to the visiting team. Lee disagreed and refused to give up the ball. As a result, the visiting team got the ball, Lee was thrown out of the gym, but became a folk hero for having been done so.

In 1975, Lee founded his own publishing company, M. Lee Smith Publishers, publishing legal newsletters. I always knew when Lee was on the phone because my secretary called him “Emily”. When he sold it in 2005, Lee no longer had to work.

Lee died of cancer on last December 20.

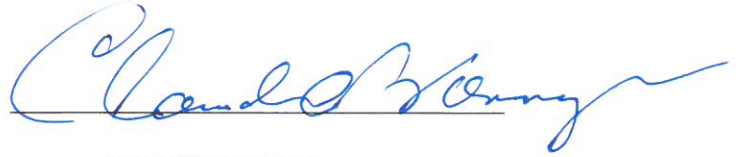
Lee is survived by his wife Marilyn Harrison Smith, daughters Connie Smith, Lily Culbreth, son, Marshall Smith and five grandchildren.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NASHVILLE BAR**

**ASSOCIATION** that we honor the life and work of M. Lee Smith and mourn in his passing the loss of a good and loyal friend and able lawyer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Memorial Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the association and entered in the “In Memoriam” book of the Chancery Court and that copies thereof be furnished to Mr. Smith’s family.

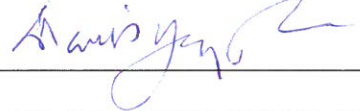
Enter this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 2017 and being the 241st year of American Independence.



CHANCELLOR

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

DAVID YOUNG PARKER, P.C.

By: 

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
FOR M. LEE SMITH