

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
IN HONOR OF  
WILLIAM WELLS BERRY, JR.  
September 23, 1946 to September 16, 2000**

William Wells Berry, Jr. died unexpectedly on September 16, 2000 of complications from surgery relating to cancer.

Born on September 23, 1946 in Nashville, Tennessee, the first child of William Wells Berry, Sr. and Mary John Berry, Bill received his early education in the local schools and graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy. He entered Vanderbilt University in 1964 where he was an active member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He earned his law degree from Vanderbilt Law School and was admitted to practice in 1972.

Bill began his career with Bass, Berry & Sims, where he practiced in the area of tax, probate and estate planning for 25 years. After leaving that firm to establish a practice on his own, he continued to specialize in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, estate planning, real estate and tax planning.

Bill was well known and liked by the members of the Bar who knew him. He was recognized as a gentleman and a man of integrity who devoted his best efforts to his profession. Those who worked with him invariably noticed his thoroughness and exceptional care and concern for his clients. He always responded quickly to calls from colleagues. Trust officers with whom he worked knew that, whatever problem arose, he would be quick to respond and prompt to help, not shying away from contentious issues. He was a staunch advocate when that was necessary; yet he exhibited the utmost patience in working with his clients and was willing to take the time necessary to explain the details of an estate plan to an elderly testator or the terms of a complicated trust to a young beneficiary.

He was recognized as an invaluable member of the professional team in some of the toughest estates with the most problems. In such cases, he often impressed colleagues with his ability to grasp complex concepts quickly and to keep detailed facts in his head. Time sometimes stood still for Bill when a problem in a case presented a facet of the law that interested him and he would view such a problem as an intellectual exercise and would exhaust the topic. Those who worked with Bill knew that he never seemed to charge a fee to cover all the time that he put into a project. One colleague was heard to comment that, if Bill charged a client \$150, he gave \$250 worth of effort.

Bill was a member of the Estate Planning Committee of the Nashville Bar Association. He participated in an informal sub-group of that committee composed of some of the best estate planning attorneys in the city who met monthly to share their thoughts and insights into estate planning and administration issues. Bill was also active in the American Bar Association and, in addition to being a member of the Tax Section of the ABA, he served for many years on the Committee on Legislation and Regulation: Generation Skipping Transfers and the Committee on Income of Estates and Trusts of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section.

Those who knew Bill will remember the light that came into his eyes as he talked about his children. His commitment to them and their activities often meant having to return to the office late at night after taking time to attend their activities during the day. He and his wife, Linda, had three children of whom Bill was very proud. Their oldest son, William Wells Berry, III, a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, is currently serving a clerkship with Judge Thomas Wiseman on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, and is looking forward to a subsequent clerkship on the United States Sixth Circuit Court of

Appeals. Their second son, Matthew Douglass Berry, is a senior at Davidson College, where he is first team offensive center on the football team. Their daughter, Katherine Adams Berry, a recent graduate of Harpeth Hall, is a freshman at the University of Virginia.

Those who knew Bill well found him a delight and pleasure to be around. He was generally a quiet and soft-spoken man, but when he did say something, it was clear that he had thought it out. Although Bill often presented a stern exterior, observers could catch a glimpse of his soft side if they caught him playing with the children of legal staff members when they were brought to the office. While he refused to ask others for help, he was willing to offer help himself. Nowhere was his unselfishness more evident than in the time he devoted to building and strengthening his college fraternity, Beta Theta Pi.

Bill was recognized by the International Beta President as "Mr. Beta Theta Pi of Tennessee" and is credited with being responsible for almost single-handedly assuring the survival of the chapters at Vanderbilt, Sewanee, Tennessee Tech and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Other fraternity members noted that the chapters in Tennessee, particularly the Vanderbilt chapter, were hand-molded by Bill in his image of what fraternity men should be. The outstanding success of the Vanderbilt Chapter and its continued vibrancy are considered testament to Bill's character. He was truly a man who will be remembered by all members of the fraternity for years to come.

His love for his fraternity was legendary and the fraternity benefitted from his wealth of knowledge on historical and archival matters. At the time of his death, and since 1995, he served as Assistant Archivist of the General Fraternity. In that post, his duties included knowledge of fraternal and chapter history and lore and organization of archival files. Bill frequently made the

long drive to the Administrative Office of the fraternity in Oxford, Ohio for a long weekend of organizing the archives and searching historical files. Since 1993, he had chaired the Fraternity's Museum Committee, which planned and supervised the Beta Museum there. Bill also served the fraternity in many other national, regional and local capacities over the years and was frequently identified as the best authority on the Code of Beta Theta Pi.

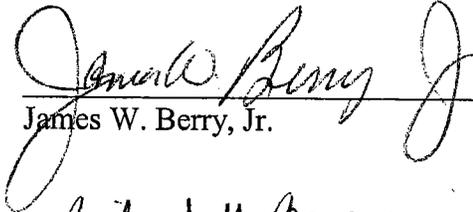
Bill was committed to helping young men find their way and he could often be found at the office late at night counseling a college student. In reference to his long years of service to the fraternity, Bill said "it's a joy to see these young men develop and grow into maturity and to hope that you had some positive influence on them." He championed the unique organization of the fraternity and felt that the strength of Beta Theta Pi is in the undergraduates' having the decision-making power, which he felt promotes responsible self-governance and challenges the collegiate member to make good and responsible decisions. The esteem to which he was held by his fraternity was evidenced by the attendance at his grave-side service of the International President of the fraternity and scores of other fraternity members, including virtually the entire Beta Lambda Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at Vanderbilt University.

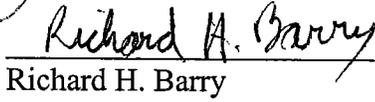
Bill was a man of wide interests, being an avid golfer and a serious student of both astronomy and the Civil War. He was also an avid professional hockey fan, frequently going to the Nashville Predators' practices and pre-season games and knowing all the farm team players and predicting who would make the Predators and when. He was an active member of the Commodore Club and a strong supporter of Vanderbilt athletics and Vanderbilt in general. Bill was otherwise involved in the community as a member of First Presbyterian Church and Belle Meade Country Club.

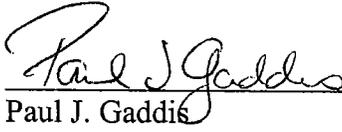
Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nashville Bar Association, that in the life and deeds of William Wells Berry, Jr. as a member of the Nashville Bar, and a member of the Nashville community in general and beyond, we have been honored and blessed to have known him, and in his passing, we have sustained a personal loss. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Memorial Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Nashville Bar Association and that copies hereof be furnished to the members of his family.

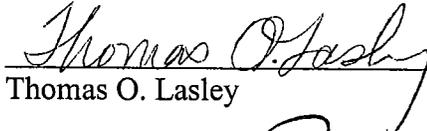
November 16, 2000

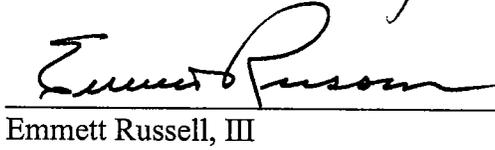
Respectfully submitted,

  
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 James W. Berry, Jr.

  
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 Richard H. Barry

  
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 Paul J. Gaddis

  
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 Thomas O. Lasley

  
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 Emmett Russell, III

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