

**ROSEMARY (BEVERLY) BROWN**  
**1950 – 2009**

Rosemary Brown, known to her family, Nashville friends and fellow members of the Nashville Bar as “Beverly” endeared herself to all who knew her with her enthusiasm, insatiable curiosity (dare we say bordering at times on nosy) and sincere interest in others. While Beverly had not been a resident of or practiced law in Nashville for many years before her death, it is nevertheless befitting and appropriate that she be memorialized by the Nashville Bar Association because of her deep interest in and great enthusiasm for its activities during the period of her life when she practiced in Nashville.

Beverly was born in Nashville on July 2, 1950 to Rose Godwin Brown and William Avon Brown. She attended Woodmont Elementary School and, after graduating from high school at Harpeth Hall, attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana for two (2) years before transferring to and graduating from the University of Arizona. While in college, Beverly was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority. Thereafter, Beverly attended and graduated from Vanderbilt Law School where she was a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Transnational Law. While at Vanderbilt, Beverly clerked, along with Dewees Berry and Wes Shofner, at the now defunct Dearborn & Ewing law firm. After graduating from Vanderbilt and passing the Tennessee bar exam, Beverly joined the law firm then known as Manier, White, Herod, Hollabaugh & Smith where she was mentored by a number of outstanding attorneys and dear friends, including, among others, two members of this resolution committee, Don Smith and Mike Franks.

Although Beverly’s and John McLemore’s fathers had worked together for many years at Oman Construction Company, it was not until Beverly began practicing in Nashville that she and John met. The Nashville Bar Association’s newsletter, *The Docket*, now *The Nashville Bar Journal* was launched in October 1975. John was its first editor and when he asked for help, Beverly was the only volunteer. She was *The Docket’s* first staff reporter. Although she had little experience as a journalist, her enthusiasm and energy were unlimited. One of her favorite activities for *The Docket* was assisting with the preparation of the “photo extravaganza” collages made up of pictures taken by John at various bar activities. She organized the barbecue dinners at which all the photos were spread on a table then cut, pasted and identified. It was Beverly who encouraged and often authored the humorous captions that made the “photo extravaganzas” so popular. Even after leaving Nashville, Beverly retained her deep interest in this bar’s activities; calling the evening of the annual banquet anxious to learn the identity of the newly elected bar board members and officers.

In the 1980s an opportunity presented itself for Beverly to practice law with a litigation firm in Dallas, and later to practice securities law with another Dallas firm. While in Dallas, Beverly met her loving husband of nineteen (19) years, Willard (Bill) Briggs. After their marriage, Beverly and Bill moved to Boulder, Colorado where Beverly

worked as a real estate agent, a Chaplin for the Boulder Community Hospital Pastoral Service and a homemaker.

Beverly courageously battled cancer on and off for the last twenty-six (26) years of her life. During this period she endured with a positive attitude more than thirteen surgeries. As part of her cancer battle, Beverly had her name legally changed to "Rosemary" because, she said, she considered it a bad omen that she had had a relative named "Beverly" who had died of cancer. In spite of her medical difficulties, Beverly never lost her enthusiasm for life or her sense of humor. When her father died some two (2) years before Beverly's death, John McLemore attended the visitation and greeted Beverly with a hug. Without intending to, he lifted her into the air. He was shocked at how light she was and made the comment, "Beverly, you are absolutely svelte." Her immediate reply was, "Heavenly days, McLemore, I've had half the organs removed from my body."

When her health permitted, she was an avid backpacker, enjoyed international travel with Bill, and took great pleasure in overseeing the remodeling of their home in Boulder.

After her long and valiant fight against the cancers, Beverly's body ultimately succumbed on May 4, 2009. In addition to her husband and his children, she is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Kenny Lyons of Nashville, her niece, Avon Lyons, and nephew, Kenny Lyons, Jr.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life and record of Rosemary ("Beverly") Brown we have been honored and blessed; that in her passing we have sustained a grievous, personal loss; that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered in the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County; and that copies hereof be furnished to the members of Ms. Brown's family.

**ENTER** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

  
**CHANCELLOR**

Approved for Entry:

Rosemary ("Beverly") Brown Resolution Committee



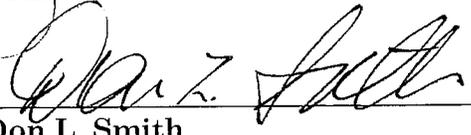
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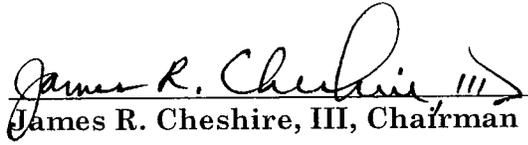
J. Michael Franks



John C. McLemore



Don L. Smith



James R. Cheshire, III, Chairman