

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

JAMES EMERY COVINGTON (1908 - 1969)

Mr. President and Members of the Nashville Bar Association:

JAMES EMERY COVINGTON was born at Hermitage, Tennessee, on August 21, 1908. He was the son of the late James Thomas Covington and Elnora Snell Covington, both of whom predeceased him. He attended Dodson's Chapel Elementary School and Central High School in Nashville, studied for two years at Peabody College, and graduated from Cumberland University Law School in 1934. The same year, he entered upon the practice of law with the late Judge W. S. Noble, with offices in the Stahlman Building, and was associated with Judge Noble until March 1, 1939.

Mr. Covington, who was known by many friends as "Jim" and by others as "Emery", was named Deputy Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Nashville, on March 1, 1939. He served very effectively in this capacity until July 15, 1946, when he was appointed Clerk and Master of the Chancery Courts at Nashville, by then Chancellor Thomas A. Shriver, and the late Chancellor William J. Wade. He served in this office with fidelity and distinction until his death on January 26, 1969, having been reappointed to the office for three successive terms. During the course of his official life he served with Chancellors James B. Newman, R. B. C. Howell, Thomas A. Shriver, William J. Wade, Thomas Wardlaw Steele, Ned Lentz, and Alfred T. Adams, and had the full and complete confidence and respect of all of them.

Chancellor Gibson, in his classic treatise, Gibson's Suits in Chancery, after enumerating many of the powers and duties of the Clerk and Master, says: "that the office of Master is one of great authority, and large and varied responsibility, requiring for its efficient discharge, a good judgment, great diligence, an inflexible impartiality, an enlightened conscience, and a thorough acquaintance with the practice of the Court, coupled with good clerical qualifications, and a large executive capacity."

Not only the Chancellors and the members of his own efficient staff, but the members of this association who have had occasion to seek his counsel in matters of procedure, or to invoke his official action in the transaction of the business of his office, will attest that James E. Covington fulfilled to the highest degree the qualifications of a Clerk and Master. Yet withal, Jim was of gentle disposition, patient, courteous and unassuming. He lacked only a little more than one month of having served thirty years, first as deputy, and then as Clerk and Master. His record in these offices is a

lasting memorial of his dedicated service, far more fitting than any words that we can muster for this occasion.

Mr. Covington was a member of the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association and this Association. He was a Past Master of McWhirtersville Masonic Lodge at Donelson. He was a member of the Donelson Church of Christ. He was also a member of other civic groups and associations, including the Ravenwood Club and Cheekwood, and the Exchange Club for many years.

On April 13, 1956, Jim was married to the former Miss Claudia Thomas of Nashville, who survives him. In addition, he was survived by a sister, Mrs. David Whitworth, West Columbia, South Carolina, two brothers, C. D. Covington, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and W. H. Covington, Nashville; and four half-sisters, Miss Beverly Covington, Mrs. Mary Bastian, Mrs. Novella Smith, and Mrs. June Caldwell, all of Franklin, Tennessee, and two half-brothers, Dr. Thomas Covington of Franklin, and Dan Covington of Nashville, Tennessee.

We join with his family, and his friends, in remembering and honoring a good, useful, generous and gentle life. We do not have words adequate for this purpose, and we doubt that it can be stated more aptly than in the words of Micah:

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Mr. President and Members of the Association, in consideration of these premises, it is

RESOLVED, that the Officers and Members of the Nashville Bar Association here assembled hereby express their appreciation for the life of James Emery Covington, and their sorrow and deep abiding sense of loss at his death; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be permanently enrolled upon the records of the Nashville Bar Association, and that the President and Secretary of the Association be authorized and directed to furnish a duly certified copy to Mrs. James E. Covington.

This December 2, 1969.

Alfred T. Adams  
Member

Ned Lentz  
Member

J. C. Dale, Jr.  
Chairman

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE