

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
VIRGINIA BONHAM COWAN  
(1921-2000)

Virginia Bonham Cowan, known to her friends and associates as “Bonnie”, had a distinguished career which included military service, outstanding student of law, practicing lawyer, political responsibility, and governmental service.

Born in Maryland on October 25, 1921 and raised in the Baltimore area, she served in the Women’s Army Corps in the Pacific during World War II, in the Army Legal Office under Carl Albert. She and her husband, Robert H. Cowan, graduated together in the Class of 1951 of the Vanderbilt University School of Law. An outstanding student in the law school, Bonnie was the Case Editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review; a member of the Order of the Coif, she graduated fourth in the large class of 1951.

Soon after graduation from law school, Bonnie became active in community and political affairs. She served on the Board of Directors of the South Street Community Center; and she and her husband together performed the monumental task of editing the Tennessee Code in 1954.

In 1974 Bonnie was one of eight persons recommended by the Tennessee Democratic Party for selection as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court. An active participant in political affairs, she served as legal counsel and Legislative Assistant to Representative Clifford Allen from 1975 to 1979.

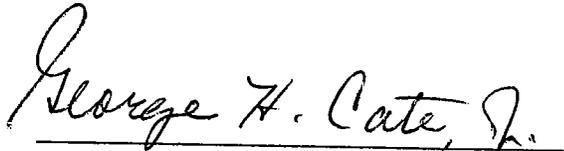
Her service in Washington, D.C. continued thereafter as a member of the White House Conference on Families in 1980 and as a member of the staff of United States Senator James Sasser from 1983 until 1988.

Among her other outstanding accomplishments, Bonnie was the mother of two prominent Nashville attorneys, Lisa Cowan (Mrs. Barry P. Bryant), and Wade B. Cowan, both of whom are members of the Nashville Bar Association and the Tennessee Bar Association.

Bonnie was retired and a resident of Nashville at the time of her death on August 21, 2000. In addition to her two children, Bonnie was survived by four grandchildren, Samuel G. Bryant, Robert T. Bryant, Robert H. Cowan, II, and Daniel S. Cowan. Other family members who survived her, all of the State of Maryland, are two sisters, Mary Clare England and Barbara Young, and a brother, Robert Bonham, Jr.

Be it resolved that the members of the Nashville Bar express this tribute to the life and service of Virginia Bonham Cowan. I respectfully move that the foregoing Resolution be spread on the Minutes of the Chancery Court, with copies furnished to members of the family.

Respectfully submitted,



FOR THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE,  
GEORGE H. CATE, JR.  
GEORGE BARRETT  
SENATOR DOUGLAS HENRY