

Memorial Resolution

HONORABLE CHARLES B. DUNGAN, JR.

1941-2015

Charles Buford Dungan, Jr. died on January 11, 2015 at age 73 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland after a brief illness, and after a long and distinguished legal career of nearly 50 years.

Charley was born December 17, 1941. He was a graduate of Knoxville Catholic High School, an Eagle Scout, and most importantly, a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

A decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, Charley served as a captain in the Judge Advocate General's office of the United States Air Force.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee School of Law at the top of his class, Charley entered the practice of law, serving our profession as a lawyer, a public defender, a state prosecutor, and a circuit court judge. He was appointed judge of the Blount County Circuit Court in 1977. He served with distinction as a judge until 1978.

Charley was known for having an encyclopedic knowledge of the law which spanned both statutory law and case law. He delighted in a well-turned phrase and was a master of direct examination. Witnesses would open up to him and reveal their innermost lives. Charley understood people and, as he liked to say, "He had been out past nine o'clock." He never ended his study of the law. He had a reputation for being both a certifiable genius and a professional procrastinator. His combination of personal attributes and compassion instilled in him a true sense of justice. He could always be counted on to do the right thing, and that constant endeared him to his family, to his professional colleagues, and to the many people who knew him. He lived his life in such a way that, on a daily basis, he reminded each one of us that, each day, we can do better.

Charley became a life-long friend of former Blount County Judge Mike Meares, and they formed a 25-year legal partnership. Judge Meares is noted for having said that shortly after he began to work with Charley, he immediately knew with whom he wanted to practice law for the rest of his professional life. Meares said of Dungan, "What distinguished him from everyone else was that he was kind

to people, regardless of their circumstances. If he had a fault, it was that he was kind to a fault. His was a collegial and genteel approach to the practice of law.”

Charley loved to read and to play golf. He was quick to help others, to bring consolation where needed, and he had a superb sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Dungan; his daughters, Stephanie, Elizabeth, Susan and Carrie; and his grandchildren, Kendall, Taylor, Abbey, Reagan and Landon.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of our departed colleague, Charles Buford Dungan, Jr., be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to Thomson West for publication in Tennessee Decisions, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this tribute and resolution be furnished to his family.

Respectfully submitted the 14th day of June, 2017.

Michael Meares
Former Circuit Judge, 5th Judicial District

David Duggan,
Circuit Judge, 5th Judicial District