

Memorial Resolution

Honorable Russell Lee Moore, Jr.

January 6, 1946 – January 28, 2022

June 2022

On January 6, 1946, Russell Lee Moore, Jr. was born to Dr. Russell Lee Moore and Dorothy Frances Jordan Moore in Dyersburg, Tennessee. Except for the time he spent in college and law school, he was a lifelong resident of Dyersburg. Lee graduated from Dyersburg High School where he excelled in baseball, football and basketball. One of his favorite past times involved entertaining listeners with stories of his high school athletic accomplishments. Lee's prowess earned him a place on the baseball team at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) under the legendary coach Tom Swayze. The team would go on to play in the College World Series with Lee's help. In fact, in his junior year of college, Lee led the Southeastern Conference in home runs. While in college, Lee was also a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Throughout his life and career that followed, Lee would embody the Sigma Nu creed to "walk in the Way of Honor."

Upon graduation, Lee enrolled in the Ole Miss Law School while continuing to assist the baseball team as a coach. His love of sports and Ole Miss in particular followed him well beyond his undergraduate years. He was a proud alumnus of Ole Miss and spoke with pride about his alma mater, remaining a passionate Ole Miss supporter and fan throughout his lifetime. For many years, he was a fixture at the Grove for football games or at Swayze Field for baseball games.

After law school graduation, Lee returned home to practice law in Dyersburg in 1971. He began his legal career as an associate at the law firm of Ewell, Ewell and Farmer. He remained at the same firm for nearly thirty years, eventually becoming a principal of the firm under a different name: Farmer, Moore, Jones, Hamilton and Lay. In 1997, Lee left private practice after he was appointed as Circuit Court Judge for the 29th Judicial District by Governor Don Sundquist. Lee served as Circuit Court Judge until his retirement on November 30, 2021. On the bench, Lee was known for being an ethical jurist with a measured and calm judicial demeanor. He wanted to do the right thing in every decision he made. His exterior hid a heart of gold and a man who cared very much for the people who worked and served around him. He always recognized the devoted work of all the court personnel who made the system run. He made himself available to encourage and lend a helping hand to those who were learning to be trial judges. A worn, tattered paged filled Bible was a fixture on his desk, and he was quick to share the words contained therein to those who crossed his path.

But the law was not Lee's only passion. Lee loved the community where he grew up and continued to be involved in various ways throughout his life. For many years, he played in the men's fast pitch softball league. He also was a long-time member of the Dyersburg Rotary Club, serving as club president and was selected as a Paul Harris Fellow. He proudly served as a member and chairman of the Dyersburg City School Board of Education, as well as being selected to the All Tennessee School Board in 1991.

Lee was also devoted to his family. Lee married Janice Chitwood Moore on July 27, 1973. Two children were born of this union: Captain Russell Lee Moore III (Amy) of Jacksonville, Florida and Jordan Willis (Matthew) of Dyersburg. Lee and Janice were blessed with 4

grandchildren, Adam Trethewey, Kyra Trethewey, Madelyn Moore and Harper Willis. Lee passed from this earthly existence on January 28, 2022.

Lee was a husband, a father, a Christian man, a student of the Bible, and a man of the highest integrity. He will be remembered for his honesty, his humility, and his remarkable kindness. We will miss the sound of his voice, his stories, and his smile. Godspeed, Judge Lee Moore.

Chancellor Tony A. Childress, Presiding Judge 29th Judicial District

Judge Mark L. Hayes, Circuit Court 29th Judicial District

Judge J. Steven Stafford, Presiding Judge Western Section Tennessee Court of Appeals