

Memorial Resolution

HONORABLE DAVID EARL DURHAM

APRIL 20, 1956 - OCTOBER 8, 2022

JUNE 2024

15th Judicial District Criminal Court Judge David Durham of Lebanon, Tennessee passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at the age of 66.

He served as the districts Criminal Court Judge from 2009-2014, having been appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen on March 11, 2009, to finish the term of Judge J.O. Bond after his passing.

David Earl Durham was born the middle child of Elizabeth Claudine and James Woodward Durham on April 20, 1956. David was a 1974 graduate of Lebanon High School, where he played football for the Blue Devils. He graduated from Cumberland College in 1976, the University of Tennessee in 1978 and University of Tennessee College of Law in 1981.

David Durham began his career as a private practice attorney from 1981-1983 with Robert P. Hamilton, who was later elected as Wilson County General Sessions Judge. He served in the Office of the Secretary of State as Assistant Coordinator of Elections from 1983-1985. He was hired by then District Attorney General Tom Price Thompson as an Assistant District Attorney in 1986 where his first position was in the Child Support Division. From 1987-2006 he worked in the criminal division. He was the lead or sole prosecutor in over fifty jury trials, including first degree murder and felony narcotics trafficking offenses. He appeared in Court of Record as lead or sole prosecutor in approximately 10,000 felony and

misdemeanor cases. In 2006, he was promoted to Deputy District Attorney General and remained in that position until 2009 when he was appointed to Criminal Court Judge.

David was not swayed or influenced by outside forces in delivering the sentences that protected the people. Even the ones that were on the receiving end of these judgments later returned to thank him for the safety of incarceration until they came to themselves.

David Durham drafted the charter for the 15th Judicial District Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force in 1988, and was a Member of the Board of Directors and lead prosecutor/legal advisor for the Task Force. David Durham was the DA in the infamous drug cave case out of Trousdale County, which the Drug Task Force discovered and which was later made the subject of a documentary.

David Durham loved life, children, the Tennessee Vols and the Atlanta Braves. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, traveling around the United States, particularly North Dakota, and the world in his outdoor pursuits.

David Durham was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, advisor and friend. He was a good man who will be greatly missed. David lived by and often quoted Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, "*The law is a jealous mistress and requires a long and constant courtship. It is not to be won by trifling favors, but by lavish homage.*" But his family never felt slighted nor were they without his attention and devotion.

David is survived by the love of his life Tania Durham. He is also survived by his children, Jennifer Durham Gresham, Amanda Groce, Clinton Durham;

his stepchildren Reese Wahl, SiMone Overskei, and Nolan Wahl, Lashaun Jones, and Shane Livingston; his sister, Jamie Durham Harper, and many other beloved grandchildren, cousins, family, and friends.

David was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bill Durham.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of David Earl Durham here be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West Publishing Company for inclusion in Tennessee Decisions and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies thereof be furnished to members of his family.

Respectfully submitted this the 12th day of June 2024.

JUDGE BRODY KANE

CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE

15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE