

Memorial Resolution

THE HONORABLE CHANCELLOR, AND UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE, ROBERT LEON JORDAN

JUNE 2024

Robert Leon Jordan, Chancellor for the First Judicial District of Tennessee, before he became United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, passed away on February 27, 2024, in Maryville, Tennessee. He was 89.

Born in Woodland, Tennessee on June 28, 1934, Judge Jordan served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956. After his Army enlistment, Judge Jordan earned his B.S. degree in 1958 from the University of Tennessee, followed by his J.D. from U.T. in 1960.

Judge Jordan started his legal career in Nashville, but soon moved to Colorado to become a manager for the Frontier Refining Company. Judge Jordan's interest in banking then led him to serve as a trust officer in three banks between 1966-1971, two of which were in Florida. In 1971, Judge Jordan returned to Tennessee to stay, becoming a partner in the Johnson City firm of Bryant, Price, Brandt, Jordan and Fox.

In 1980, Governor Lamar Alexander appointed him to be Chancellor for the First Judicial District. In 1982, Chancellor Jordan was elected to a full term. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Chancellor Jordan for the Federal bench, and on November 15, 1988, he was sworn in as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Judge Jordan lived in Maryville throughout his years as U.S. District Judge.

Throughout his career, Leon Jordan encouraged those who came before him to make positive changes in their lives. He developed a reputation for being firm, but fair. His dedication to the rule of law was absolute, and he did not allow any bias to

affect the impartial administration of justice in his court. He was honest, diligent and respectful of all, and he displayed a warm sense of humor. Judge Jordan often spoke of his lasting attachment to upper East Tennessee. His fondest memories were of his years as a Chancellor. Through Judge Jordan's encouragement, a chapter of the Federal Bar Association called the Northeast Tennessee Chapter was founded.

In 2004, Judge Jordan was elected President of the Sixth Circuit District Judges Association. In 2014, the Knoxville Bar Association presented Judge Jordan with the Judicial Excellence Award. The Phi Alpha Delta Chapter of the U.T. College of Law presented Judge Jordan with its Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Judge Jordan was preceded in death by his devoted wife of 67 years, Dottie, and his daughter, Margaret Bryson. He is survived by his sons, Robert Jordan, Jr. and Daniel Jordan, and grandsons, Luke Bryson and Sam Bryson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we honor the life, work, and legacy of our dearly departed colleague, CHANCELLOR, and U.S. District Judge, ROBERT LEON JORDAN, by the Tennessee Judicial Conference, that this Memorial Resolution be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West Publishing Company for publication in Tennessee Decisions, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this tribute and resolution be furnished to his family.