

Memorial Resolution

Honorable Waymon Frederic “Fred” Axley

1937 - 2020

June 2021

Waymon Frederic “Fred” Axley, retired criminal court judge died on November 6, 2020 at his home. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lawrette Bright Axley and two children, Cynthia “Cindy” Oliver (Mike), and son Gregg (Karen), Grandchildren: Christopher (Kandis), Kimberly (Daniel) Simkin and great-grandchildren- Cohen, Jonah and Jude Oliver.

Judge Axley was born on May 20, 1937 in North Little Rock, Arkansas to Coleman and Billie Axley. He grew up in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, often picking up money working as a deckhand on fishing boat charters. He remained lifelong friends with many of those charter captains, and regularly returned to the Gulf Coast for fishing trips with Memphis friends, many of whom also were elected officials from Shelby County.

Judge Axley graduated from Marion Military Institute, and served in the United States Army from 1956 till 1962. After serving in the Army Judge Axley graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi, and then entered Southern Law University at Memphis (Now Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis). After being admitted to the Bar, Judge Axley worked briefly in corporate law before being appointed as an Assistant District Attorney in the Shelby County District Attorney General’s Office. Judge Axley served for 10 years as a prosecutor until he was elected to the criminal bench in 1982. After his election to the bench as judge of Criminal Court Division 6, Judge Axley would be elected to a total of 4 eight-year terms, serving until he retired in June of 2007.

Judge Axley’s achievements and recognitions from the community are innumerable. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Fellow of the Memphis Bar Association and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Memphis Adult Chapter where he helped establish a team called Spirit Express. He has supported

ministries in the inner-city, Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Neighborhood Watch. Judge Axley created a scholarship at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law titled The Honorable W. Fred Axley, Criminal Court Judge, Retired Scholarship for a deserving student.

Judge Axley and Lawrette have been members of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, TN for 24 years. He participated in Faith Walk, mission activities with The World Changers and supported local outreach through the many church ministries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing memorial resolution in honor of our dear departed colleague, **WAYMON FREDERIC "FRED" AXLEY** be entered on the minutes of the Conference, that a copy be furnished to Thomson 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.

Respectfully submitted this the 16th day of June 2021 in Memphis, Tennessee at the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

John W. Campbell

Presiding Judge

Criminal Court

30th Judicial District