

## *Memorial Resolution*

### **THE HONORABLE JUDGE LEONARD "TERRY" TERRENCE LAFFERTY**

**JUNE 14, 2023**

Honorable Judge Leonard "Terry" Terrence Lafferty, retired Criminal Court Judge for the 30th Judicial District passed away on Friday, July 2, 2021 at the age of 89. Judge Lafferty was born on June 30, 1932 in Newark, Ohio. He served in the Navy during the Korean War.

After his enlistment the Navy ,he attended Memphis State University where he met and later married Patricia Ann Timanus in 1956. Judge Lafferty graduated from Memphis State and later obtained his law degree from Southern Law University. In 1963 he joined the district attorney's office and in 1977 he became a Criminal Court Judge in Shelby County which he held until his retirement in 1997. After his retirement, he served as both an Appellate Judge and a Senior Judge. Judge Lafferty was very active in the American Legion. Judge Lafferty enjoyed woodworking and fishing.

As a judge, and equally as a lay person, Judge Lafferty has consistently been described as one of the most compassionate individuals. Judge Lafferty had a keen respect for life and the fragile nature of life. He treated everyone with genuine empathy and concern. He was never dismissive or detached. Simply put, Judge Lafferty's respect for human dignity was unsurpassed. In addition, he had a unique and transcendent ability to perceive the existence of any unnatural or heightened level of stress and anxiety in the courtroom, whether within or among the lawyers, the people on trial, families in attendance, the clerks, court reporters, and deputies, and Judge Lafferty used his unparalleled and abiding good humor to defuse that stress and anxiety, often in the most subtle of ways. Judge Lafferty was a very good and knowledgeable man of letters of the law. But more so, he had an outstanding appreciation for the human condition. Honest, trustworthy, and fair, tempered with a very good sense of humor. If he said something or wrote an

opinion, you could be sure it was backed by thoughtful contemplation of every available fact, and iota, of evidence. He left nothing to chance.

Judge Lafferty never set out to promote himself, and often was more interested in how you were getting along in life, and adding how was your family doing. His interest was sincere and candid.

Judge Terry Lafferty was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Ann Lafferty, and his son, Keith Lafferty. He is survived by his sons, Kevin Lafferty (Tammi), Craig Lafferty (Lisa), and many nieces, nephews, and extended family

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we honor the life, work, and legacy of our dearly departed colleague, JUDGE TERRY LAFFERTY, 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.