

Memorial Resolution

THE HONORABLE WALTER WOODS BUSSART

JUNE 14, 2023

Walter Woods Bussart, who was born in Belfast, Tennessee, on April 16, 1942, to Mary Gertrude Woods Bussart and Christopher Leo Bussart, passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

Walter received many honors throughout his life, but his proudest distinctions were father, attorney-at-law, and judge.

After graduating from Marshall County High School in 1960, Walter attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he served as President of the Student Body. Walter also attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1966, after which he clerked for Justice Thomas Dyer of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

He then began his law practice in Lewisburg, Tennessee, under the tutelage of Bill Lloyd. Walter subsequently founded his own practice to commence a legal career that spanned 56 years, during which he practiced with notable lawyers, including Fred Thompson, Barbara Medley, and his daughter, Lee Bussart, who currently serves as the General Sessions & Juvenile Court Judge of Marshall County, Tennessee.

He was recognized as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. His passion for service to the profession led him to serve as Speaker of the House of Delegates for the Tennessee Bar Association. Walter was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives and served in the 90th General Assembly. He was also chosen as the Marshall County General Sessions Judge in 1972 and later appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals in 1997 for an interim position while Judge Sam Lewis was on medical leave, serving alongside Judges Ben Cantrell, Henry Todd, and William Koch.

Walter also served with the Tennessee National Guard and claimed the Erickson Trophy for the State of Tennessee, presented annually to the Distinguished Graduates of each State National Guard Officer Candidate School. Over 32 years of service, he developed lifelong friendships with other Judge Advocate Generals and rose to the rank of Colonel.

Walter served two terms as President of Richland Country Club in Nashville, Tennessee, enjoying the members' fellowship and the staff's friendship. Outside of the practice of law, Walter was happiest singing Rocky Top in Neyland Stadium.

Walter is survived by his two daughters, Brittain Anne Bussart of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Catherine Lee Bussart (Sam Smith) of Cornersville, Tennessee, and his grandchildren, Mary Adella Youmans (Addie), Kate Dorothy Youmans, and Samuel Walter Smith. He is also survived by his companion of many years, Barbara Kellett.

Adored by family, befriended by colleagues, and respected by all who knew him, Walter Woods Bussart established an enduring legacy by leaving his profession, his community, and our great State remarkably better places.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of our departed colleague, Walter Woods Bussart, be entered on the minutes of this conference, and that a copy be published in Tennessee Decisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this tribute and resolution be furnished to his family.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of June, 2023.

Frank G. Clement, Jr.

Presiding Judge, Middle Section

Court of Appeals of Tennessee