

Memorial Resolution

Honorable Wilfred “Wil” V. Doran

1932 – 2020

June 2021

Will V. Doran, retired Chancellor for the 30th Judicial District, died on August 27, 2020, at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jewell Sanders Doran, his children, Denise Shaw, Dawn Wilsey and Damon Doran, and grandchildren Jonah and Jordan Shaw and Grace, Sarah and Emily Wilsey.

Chancellor Doran was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas and was the son of Italian immigrants. After he graduated from high school he entered service in the US Navy during the Korean War. While in the Navy he served as a Seabee, Constructionman Second Class. Chancellor Doran was a Golden Glove boxer and competed while in high school and in the Navy.

After his discharge from the Navy Chancellor Doran returned to San Antonio and attended St Mary’s University on the GI Bill. He finished his undergraduate education at the University of Texas in Austin. After he moved to Memphis he was admitted to Southern Law University (now the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis) where he received his JD Degree. While attending law school at night, Chancellor Doran worked during the day as an insurance adjuster. He met his wife of fifty-eight years while she was working at an insurance agency.

After admission to the Bar, Chancellor Doran worked as an assistant public defender in Shelby County, Tennessee and in private practice. Chancellor Doran joined the Memphis firm of Neely, Green and Fargarson where he remained until he was appointed by Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington as a General Sessions

Judge, hearing both criminal and civil cases. After two years, he was appointed as a Chancellor for the Shelby County Chancery Court and was later re-elected twice, sitting for 14 years. After leaving the bench, he served as an Assistant District Attorney General in the Grand Jury section for 5 years. Upon retirement, he often sat as a Designated or Special Judge throughout West TN, as both a trial judge and on the Court of Appeals. He also served as Vice President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing memorial resolution in honor of our dear departed colleague, **WILFRED “WIL” V. DORAN** 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