

Memorial Resolution

HONORABLE JERRY SCOTT

1941-2017

March 5, 2017, saw the passing of a committed Christian servant, a devoted husband, a doting father and grandfather, a brilliant legal scholar and teacher, a wise and thoughtful judge and advocate, and a loyal friend. These are the qualities, in the order in which he would list them, of our friend and colleague Jerry Scott.

Jerry was born, appropriately enough, on “Armistice Day,” now “Veterans Day,” November 11, 1941, to Mildred Inez Scott, in Nashville, Tennessee. He was raised in Dickson County, Tennessee. From the age of twelve, he worked with his Uncle Clyde on a Jersey Farms Milk truck, delivering milk to the residents of Dickson County. When he was old enough, Jerry got a job at the Dickson Bowl-O-Rena, and worked his way through college at Austin Peay State University by driving home each weekend to work there. He graduated from Austin Peay in 1962 with a major in American history. His intellect, determination and hard work earned him a scholarship to Vanderbilt University Law School, where he graduated with his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree on May 30, 1965. Upon his graduation from law school, he was admitted to the Tennessee Bar on August 19, 1965, and admitted to practice law before the Tennessee Supreme Court on September 8, 1965.

Jerry’s birth date would presage his successful career with the U.S. Air Force, in which he delighted and served for thirty years. He joined the Air Force in 1965 as a Judge Advocate. For three years, Jerry served on active duty at Oxnard Air Force Base, California, first as an Assistant Judge Advocate, then as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commander. He transitioned to the Air Force Reserves in 1969, and was then assigned as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee. On August 1, 1980, the Air Force assigned him to the General Litigation Division, Headquarters United States Air Force, in Washington, D.C. By this time, Jerry Scott was Judge Jerry Scott in his civilian career. Accordingly, in June 1983, the Air Force re-assigned him to the First Circuit Air Force Worldwide Trial Judiciary at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C, as one of the first three reserve

military judges in the United States Air Force. As the program grew, he was later assigned additional duties as the Chief Reserve Military Judge of the Air Force. In 1992, he was commissioned as a Brigadier General. After thirty years of honorable service, Jerry retired from the Air Force in 1995.

When Jerry finished his active duty service with the Air Force in 1969, he came back to Waynesboro, Tennessee, where he joined his law school classmate, Landis Turner, at the law firm of Keaton, Haggard, Turner and Scott. On February 5, 1973, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Judge W.A. Harwell, of the Eleventh (now Twenty-Second) Judicial District in Tennessee, serving Giles, Lawrence, Maury and Wayne Counties. While serving as a trial judge, he met his future bride, Ann Kathryn Brian, and they married on April 21, 1974.

In 1979, Governor Lamar Alexander appointed Judge Scott to serve as Judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. Judge Scott served on the court until 1995, when he returned to private legal practice in Waynesboro and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with friend and former law clerk, John Kea, in the firm of Scott and Kea. In addition to the practice of law, from 1995 until 2004, Judge Scott served as Disciplinary Counsel to the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary. He also served, from 1997 until 2007, as a faculty member at the Nashville School of Law. In 2004, at the request of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Judge Scott returned to the bench in the role of Senior Judge, traveling from one end of the state to the other trying cases. At the end of his tenure as Senior Judge in 2008, Judge Scott resumed the private practice of law in Murfreesboro at his own firm, Scott & Associates.

In addition to his professional life, Judge Scott was a devoted husband to Ann Kathryn, and proud father to two beautiful daughters, Susan Scott VanDyke and Ashley Scott Kelley, who gave him his beautiful grandchildren, Claire, Will, Taylor, Evie and Ian. Never one to sit on the sidelines, Jerry served his community in numerous civic capacities, including the Lion's Club, the Rotary Club, the Jaycee's, as a Trustee of the Columbia State Community College Foundation, in numerous Bar Associations, and on the Board of Special Kids, Inc., of Murfreesboro. He was a longtime member, Sunday School teacher, and deacon of Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

Today we honor a man whose contributions to his family, to the legal profession, to his community, and to the nation cannot be measured. In his death, we have sustained a great loss, but in the memories of his life, we have great treasure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of our dear departed colleague, Jerry Scott, be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West for publication in Tennessee Decisions, and that copies of this tribute and resolution be furnished to his wife, Ann Kathryn Scott, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of June, 2017.

Thomas T. Woodall, Judge
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals