

Memorial Resolution

Honorable J. Kenneth Porter

June 2021

Whereas, the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the 4th Judicial District and the State of Tennessee has lost a valued Judge and Leader on April 5, 2021 with the death of J. Kenneth Porter.

Whereas, J. Kenneth Porter was born in Cocke County, Tennessee to John C. Porter and his wife, Bessie Porter. Judge Porter grew up in Newport, Tennessee where he was a faithful and committed lifetime member of First Baptist Church. He was educated in the public schools in Newport, Tennessee and earned his undergraduate degree in Business and Accounting from the University of Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Law where he was first in his class, awarded the Order of the Coif and served as editor of the Law Review. Upon graduation he and his bride, Janet Rhodes Porter returned to Newport and he joined his father in the practice of law.

Whereas, Judge Porter became active in Republican politics and served two terms in the Tennessee General Assembly, both as a Representative and a Senator.

Whereas, in 1974 Judge Porter ran and was elected Circuit Judge in the current 4th Judicial District which was at the time comprised of six counties. When his service began he was the only Circuit Judge in the District. This service continued until his retirement in 1993. His judicial service saw many young attorneys learn the proper way to prepare and try a case. Judge Porter wanted lawyers to do their best and he expected nothing less. His legacy in the 4th Judicial District is unparalleled.

Whereas, friends of Judge Porter would say he was fearless, he stood as an example of hard work, dedication and honesty, which long after his retirement is a beacon for others to follow.

Be It Resolved, the members of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, recognizes the significant contributions of Judge J. Kenneth Porter over the course of his distinguished career and mourns his death and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Tennessee Judicial Conference extends its sincerest condolences to his wife Janet Porter, his daughter Janie C. Porter, son James Kenneth Porter, Jr., and his grandchildren in their loss.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference on this 16th day of June 2021, that this resolution in honor of our departed colleague and friend J. Kenneth Porter be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West Publishing Company for publication in *Tennessee Decisions*, and that a copy be furnished to the family.

Respectfully submitted by:

Judge James L. Gass, Circuit Judge
4th Judicial District, Part II

Judge Carter Moore, Circuit Judge
4th Judicial District, Part I