

# *Memorial Resolution*

Honorable Ed Reynolds Davies  
November 20, 1931 – November 22, 2021

June 2022

Ed Reynolds Davies age 90 passed away Monday November 22, 2021, from natural causes. He was born at Saint Thomas Hospital in 1931 and was a first-generation native Nashvillian. He died at his home—2 days after celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family.

Ed graduated high school from The Webb School in Bell Buckle, TN in 1949. Thereafter he received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1953 where he was in the NROTC program and President of Sigma Chi Fraternity during his senior year. He later earned his law degree (LLB) from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1958 and served on the Vanderbilt Law Review from 1956-1958.

Between college and law school, Ed was on active duty in the United States Marine Corps as a Platoon Leader, Anti-Tank Assault Platoon, Weapons Company, Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. He was stationed in Paju-Ri, Korea from 1954-1955. Ed continued to serve his country for another 24 years in the Active Reserve, Infantry from 1955 to 1979 when he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Ed spent his professional career as a trial lawyer in Davidson County and he was an excellent one at that. He was a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation lawyer - his grandfather, father, and brother were lawyers and judges. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Nashville Bar Association and Ed also served two terms on the Board of Directors for the NBA (1971-1973; 1977-1979). Ed was elected by his peers to membership as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1985 and he remained active in that organization until his retirement in 2019.

Ed began his career at Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis (1958-1963) before moving to Boulton, Cummings, Connors & Berry (1963-1973) and starting his own law firm in 1973 with partners Thomas O.H. Smith, Jr. and Luther Cantrell and later with Jerry Humphreys and former Chancellor Carol McCoy. The firm became known as Davies, Humphreys & Reese in the 2000s and Ed enjoyed practicing law with two of his sons in the firm through the years until he retired in 2019.

On May 29, 1974, Ed was appointed by Governor Winfield Dunn to fill the unexpired term of Chancellor Frank F. Drowota, III as Chancellor of Part II of the Chancery Court for Davidson County, Tennessee. He took a leave of absence from his private practice to serve briefly as Chancellor of Part II until his term of office expired on September 1, 1974. After Davidson County Democratic politics intervened and he did not receive the party's nomination, Ed was urged to run as an independent candidate but declined to do so to prevent Ben Cantrell (the other Davidson County Chancellor) from facing an opponent in the general election.

Though his service as a Davidson County Chancellor was short-lived, Ed was well-liked and respected as a judge by members of the Nashville Bar and by those who appeared before him. He was known for being fair, his thoughtful and well-researched decisions, and his excellent judicial demeanor.

Ed was preceded in death by his father United States District Judge Elmer David Davies, his mother Luda Reynolds Davies, his Grandfather Judge J. E. Reynolds of Arcadia, LA, and his brother Circuit Judge Elmer D. Davies, Jr. of Williamson County, TN. Ed is survived by his loving wife of 68 years Elizabeth (Betty) Burns Davies; his three "boys" – all of whom followed in Ed's footsteps by becoming 4<sup>th</sup> generation lawyers - Ed Reynolds Davies, Jr. (Dena) of Nashville, Robert Rankin Davies (Lisa) of Nashville, and Wade Vance Davies (Bethany Hallam) of Knoxville; 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews some of whom are also lawyers and judges, including Senior Judge Robert E. Lee Davies of Franklin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of Ed R.

Davies here be entered on the minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West Publishing Company for inclusion in Tennessee Decisions and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies thereof be furnished to members of his family.

Respectfully submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

JUDGE JOE P. BINKLEY, JR.  
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT