

Memorial Resolution

THE HONORABLE WHEELER A. ROSENBALM

JUNE 2024

Wheeler Armston Rosenbalm, age 86, retired Circuit Court Judge of the 6th Judicial District, passed peacefully on April 21, 2024, with his daughter at his side at The University of Tennessee Medical Center after a brief illness. Judge Rosenbalm was married to Betty Katherine Rosenbalm for 64 years. They were inseparable, even by death, as Betty passed a few days later, on May 4, 2024. They are survived by their daughter, Karla (Rosenbalm) Jones, her husband, Mark Jones and two grandchildren, Harrison Armston Jones and Regan McKinley Jones. Judge Rosenbalm is also survived by his brother, Wendell Rosenbalm.

Judge Rosenbalm was born and raised in Anderson County where he worked on the family farm, farming tobacco and dairy. He attended a three-room elementary school where he began his life-long love of learning. He was a 1956 graduate of Clinton High School and was president of the student council in his senior year. He attended Lincoln Memorial University earning a double major in accounting and economics, and a double minor in business administration and English. He was president of his class every year at LMU and graduated in 1960.

Before attending law school at the University of Tennessee, Judge Rosenbalm served six months active duty in the Army Reserves with the 489th Civil Affairs Company. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1964 with high academic honors. Judge Rosenbalm described his law school experience as one of the highlights of his life. Upon graduation and before taking the bar exam, Judge Rosenbalm's academic excellence resulted in his appointment to the faculty of the law school where he taught all the procedural law courses for two

years. Throughout his legal career, Judge Rosenbalm was affectionately referred to as “Professor.”

In 1966, Rosenbalm entered private practice with the Knoxville firm of Frantz, McConnell and Seymour where he worked as a trial lawyer for the next 24 years. Judge Rosenbalm served 10 years on the Tennessee Board of Bar Examiners and in 1986 he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 1990 he chose to run for election for Circuit Court Judge in Knox County, Division III. He and his wife Betty truly enjoyed the campaign trail and the opportunity to make so many new friends. Judge Rosenbalm was elected in 1990 and re-elected in 1998 and 2006. He retired from the bench on December 31, 2012. Judge Rosenbalm was known for his smile and his gracious demeanor on the bench. Lawyers often said that Judge Rosenbalm had a unique ability to make you see the error of your argument without making you feel stupid.

In his spare time, Judge Rosenbalm loved dove hunting and fly fishing. He was very proud to be featured in a video produced by the Tennessee Wildlife Authority while fishing in the Little Tennessee River. A still shot of him from that video served as the cover for an edition of the Tennessee Conservationist magazine. Judge Rosenbalm and Betty enjoyed playing tennis but in later years, golf became his favorite pastime. He and Betty were also active at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church where he served for many years as a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing memorial resolution in honor of Wheeler Armston Rosenbalm, 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 of this resolution be furnished to members of his family as a token of the esteem and honor in which he has been held.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of June 2024.

Deborah C. Stevens

Judge, 6th Judicial District, Circuit Court, Division III