



A RESOLUTION memorializing the late John Dresden Copenhaver.

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver passed away at age 94 in Roanoke, Virginia on May 16, 2005; and

WHEREAS the said John Copenhaver was a long-time resident of Roanoke, Virginia, and was born in Johnson City, Tennessee to the late John Oscar Denison Copenhaver and Letha Witten Copenhaver; Mr. Copenhaver graduated from Jefferson High School in Roanoke, Virginia, in 1929, where he was the valedictorian and class president; he attended Washington and Lee University and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Phi and Lappa Sigma; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver remained loyal to Washington and Lee University by entering law school and earning his law degree from Washington and Lee University; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver began his practice of law in Roanoke in 1936 at the firm of Copenhaver and Edwards; World War II temporarily interrupted his law practice when he served his country in the FBI from 1942 to 1944 and then as a field director for the Red Cross in the Phillipines; Mr. Copenhaver returned to his law practice upon the end of the war and retired from the firm of Copenhaver, Ellett, Cornelison and Derrico in 2001 after 65 years of practice; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver was a member of the Virginia State Bar, the Virginia Bar Association and served as President of the Roanoke Bar Association; and

WHEREAS during his active practice, Mr. Copenhaver was involved in many of the traditional activities and services of many attorneys, but should be most recognized for those services that went unseen. Mr. Copenhaver represented and advised clients diverse in economic status and heritage often at greatly reduced or no fee. There was a network of people who knew of this generosity and sought out Mr. Copenhaver by this reputation without the intervention of any traditional organization. They were treated no differently than a major corporate client; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver involved himself in his community by serving as Chairman of the Fifth District Planning Commission of the State of Virginia, President of the Friends of the Library, President of the Children's Home Society of Roanoke and Vice President of the Pell Foundation; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver was an avid tennis player, a long term member and benefactor of Trinity United Methodist Church, and enjoyed the study and example of the life of Robert E. Lee; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver always felt the world was going to be a better place than it was; and

WHEREAS Mr. Copenhaver is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Mary Glenn Copenhaver, by daughters, Mary Stone C. Klingelhofer, Ann C. Cotton and her husband Philip W. Cotton, by a son John D. Copenhaver, Jr. and his wife Marsha A. Childs, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and numerous other family members and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of John Dresden Copenhaver, and holds his memory and his contributions to this Association, to this community, and to the cause of justice in high regard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Circuit Courts of the City and County of Roanoke and the City of Salem and the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division, with motions that the resolution be spread upon the permanent common law order books of those courts; and that copies of this resolution be furnished to John Copenhaver's family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds John and his memory and the Association's sorrow at his passing.

GIVEN under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 14th day of February, 2006.

President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association