



RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE WILLIAM ANDREW DICKINSON.

WHEREAS, William Andrew “Billy” Dickinson of Roanoke, a respected public servant and attorney, died August 26, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Billy Dickinson is offered to the memory of our Association as a fine lawyer and a good man; and

WHEREAS, Billy Dickinson was a Roanoke native, born September 15, 1916, to Shirley H. and George Nelson Dickinson, who served as president of the Colonial American National Bank for many years; Billy was a Jefferson High School graduate and earned two degrees at the University of Virginia, graduating in law in 1941; he clerked briefly with Virginia Supreme Court Justice Herbert Gregory, served in the South Pacific as a Lieutenant in the Navy, returned home to marry Nancy Ring, whose family was associated with the Roanoke City Mills, and entered the practice of law in 1946 with the firm of Cocke, Hazlegrove and Shackelford; and

WHEREAS, as a lawyer, his professionalism was traditional; his early practice fell within a period of judicial conservatism, a time when the local bar comfortably could assemble at the Ponce de Leon and lunch out-of-reach of irrelevant clients in the academic purity of the Mayflower Cafeteria; he practiced to a standard above the expectations of our profession, and it was his good fortune to pursue an office practice in the representation of clients whose charter missions to render public service as hospitals, banks and utilities matched with his; and

WHEREAS, Billy Dickinson's professional demeanor was disciplined and courtly, his problem solving rational and dispassionate, his ego uncomplicated, and his expectation of others quite modest; and

WHEREAS, Billy cherished his chattels; he slept with his long carriage typewriter in the Pacific; his Volkswagon Bug and, later, his Ford Bronco, were heralded as masterpieces of automotive engineering; he never owned a single thing not carefully assessed, selected and adored for its perfection; his enlightened discourses on the subtle virtues of his treasures muted the question whether he liked to behold than use them; as he approached retirement and saw our trade flourish unbounded on slight imperfections, he clung to his collection of miter boxes and saws; he liked clean cuts and predictable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, his personal life was blessed with two wives who loved him, Barbara in autumn, a great golf swing and net game in tennis, a late life romance with down hill skiing born in painful awkwardness, the bite of a Beefeater martini, and a host of friends; those of us who practiced and played with him shared the uncommon pleasure of his goodness and will comfort from his memory so long as we shall live; and

WHEREAS, Billy Dickinson will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving family and his numerous friends and admirers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of William Andrew "Billy" Dickinson, 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 his family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds him 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 11th day of March, 2008.

President

TESTE:

Secretary