



A RESOLUTION memorializing the late Ellen Spring Moore.

WHEREAS when Ellen Spring Moore departed this life on March 31, 2005 at the age of 39, she had lived life more richly than most of us can ever dream to do; and

WHEREAS Ellen Spring Moore was a member of the Roanoke Bar Association for less than five years, yet in that short window of time became engaged and married to her beloved husband, Billy Balarzs; built a home and started a farm; threw herself into the practice of law at Woods, Rogers and was welcomed as a Principal of that firm in 2005; and, finally, completed one of the most grueling marathons in the world, 26.2 miles up and down the Pacific Coast in Big Sur, California in April, 2003; and

WHEREAS Ellen Spring Moore accomplished all of this with joy, grace and an amazing sense of self and humor all the while battling melanoma, the most deadly form of cancer; and

WHEREAS, this gifted and charismatic woman was born on March 16, 1966, one of the four children of Larry and Mary Ann Moore of Blacksburg. While Ellen's siblings got into their share of teenage trouble, Ellen was serious and shy, the family scholar. At an early age, Ellen developed a love of horses and horseback riding, which allowed her to overcome her timidity. As is typical of many, Ellen fell off her horse early in her riding days; but as is characteristic of few, she got right back on and overcame her fear and early difficulties with an uncommon grit and determination that characterized her life; and

WHEREAS Ellen spent her college days at William and Mary, where she was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and performed well enough to land a position as an analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency. Despite constant prodding by some of her friends, even in later years Ellen would never disclose what she did while working for the CIA, and all that was ever learned was that she spent much of her time working in a vault. If the questions became unduly persistent or annoying, Ellen would quip that her CIA training included being checked out on every weapon that existed in the world. That usually ended the inquiry; and

WHEREAS no vault could contain Ellen or her spirit of compassion, humanity and service to others, Ellen attended the University of Virginia School of Law, and landed a highly coveted job in the Washington, D.C. branch of the New York firm of White & Case. After toiling in the fields of such a prominent national law firm for a few years, Ellen returned to public service, this time working for the Department of Justice doing international security work; and

WHEREAS Ellen's performance for the Justice Department was such that she was presented the department's Outstanding Service Award in 1999 by the Attorney General. What is telling about the essence of Ellen Spring Moore is not that she achieved such an honor, as she had always been gifted, hard working and loyal. What is remarkable is that she achieved this award after being diagnosed with and undergoing surgery and treatment for her cancer. Following surgery, Ellen quickly returned to work full time, all the while undergoing interferon treatment which made her feel as if she was suffering from a terrible bout of flu. In typical Ellen fashion, she scheduled her treatments at 4:00 in the afternoon, so she could work all day for Justice, then have her treatments and go home to recover; and

WHEREAS after recovering from surgery and her cancer treatment, Ellen reprioritized her life and decided to move closer to her family in Blacksburg and the love of her life, Billy Balarzs. Ellen sent her resume to Woods, Rogers, and her interview there typified her attitude of never taking herself too seriously. It was Monday, July 3, 2000, when Ellen's resume came to the attention of the Recruiting Committee Chair at Woods, Rogers, and she was called on her cell phone. Things were pretty quiet at the firm that day as most folks had decided to take a four day holiday weekend. As luck would have it, Ellen was reached driving between Blacksburg and Roanoke, on her way to Washington, and said she could stop by the firm. Ellen's interview was a first in the 100 year history of that staid firm, it being conducted with the applicant wearing a t-shirt, shorts and sandals. Nevertheless, Ellen wowed all those she met and was made an offer on the spot; and

WHEREAS Ellen quickly distinguished herself as a commercial litigator, renowned at the firm for being a quick study and for her analytical prowess. Ellen jumped into the community as well, including her active involvement with Rebuilding Together, Young Audiences, Blue Ridge Legal Services Pro Bono Hotline, Youth Court, Wills for Heroes, the Blue Ridge Boy Scout Council and the Blacksburg Breakfast Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS just as Ellen began to settle in to her new career and life in Roanoke, in April, 2002, her cancer reappeared. The firm sent her on a trip to Iceland, and she returned with a renewed vigor to defeat cancer and live life on her terms; and

WHEREAS she did just that. Over the next few years, while her Roanoke oncologist was telling her to arrange her affairs, Ellen began to scour the countryside for an appropriate site to build her dream white frame farmhouse with some room for horses. Despite her medical naysayers, she built that farm, bought two horses and began riding again. Not only that, she and Billy became engaged, and were married on a beautiful fall day in Blacksburg and took a wedding trip to New Zealand; and

WHEREAS all the while Ellen continued to work, and work hard, both on cases for her clients and on community and bar activities. Ellen was actively undergoing a series of experimental cancer treatments, and when she felt bad, she would simply close her door and suffer in silence. Ellen took over editing the newsletter for the Virginia State Bar Antitrust, Franchise and Trade Regulation section newsletter and authored a chapter for a book published by the American Bar Association Antitrust Section. When she passed away in March of this year, she had with her at home the beginnings of another ABA project she had volunteered to author; and

WHEREAS Ellen's tireless efforts were rewarded, both by the gratitude of her clients and other civic leaders. At the end of 2004, Ellen was named as a Principal of Woods, Rogers, an acknowledgment of her contribution to the firm that meant more to her than her fellow Principals will ever know; and

WHEREAS Ellen decided that she wanted to run a marathon. And not just any marathon, she decided to run one with some flair, along the craggy Pacific coast in Big Sur. The problem with that marathon for first timers, her running mates tried to explain, was that this course was extremely difficult given its many brutal hills. Not one to be so easily dissuaded, Ellen showed us all by training and running the Big Sur Marathon, and not just completing the 26 mile course, but doing so with a zest and an appreciation for living every step of the way, whether she was going up or down; and

WHEREAS Ellen's last few years were characterized by ups and downs reflecting the ebbs and flows of the various experimental treatment programs she studied and doggedly pursued. Regardless of

how gloomy the prognosis, Ellen never dwelled on the predicted outcome of her disease. Rather, she would always focus on some small positive aspect of the doctor's comments or joke that considering what she was paying for each test, that she ought to start asking for her money back unless she got better results. Throughout her years of struggle, Ellen was a model of courage and fortitude; and

WHEREAS Ellen never whined or complained. Instead, she focused each day on living, and enjoying each moment to the fullest. You see, Ellen had plenty of reason to despair at her lot in life, the missed early diagnosis and recurrence of her cancer, but it was contrary to her nature and to her faith to do so. Instead of despairing at her condition, Ellen always wanted to know how you and your family were doing. Rather than seeking comfort, Ellen was always thinking of others, whether by giving homemade candles to each employee of her firm one Christmas or by constantly baking bread and pies to give to others; and

WHEREAS Ellen Spring Moore's life was a gift to all who knew her, as well as the countless others whose lives she inspired or touched, and she was an outstanding young lawyer both in service to her country and her community, whose accomplishments were recognized by all in just a short span of years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of Ellen Spring Moore, and holds her memory and contributions to this Association, to this community and to the cause of freedom and 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 of Montgomery County 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 Ellen Spring Moore's husband and family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds Ellen and her memory and the Association's sorrow at her passing.

Given under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of this Association this 11th day of November, 2005.

President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association