



A RESOLUTION memorializing the late Theodore La Drue Plunkett, Jr.

Whereas, Theodore La Drue Plunkett, Jr., known to most people as Mr. Plunkett or T.L., died at the age of 86 on March 30, 2010; and

Whereas, T.L. was born in Roanoke, Virginia, in 1923, and lived in Roanoke during his early years; but during the great depression his parents and their five children, including, of course, T.L., moved to Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from E. C. Glass High in 1940 and immediately thereafter entered Lynchburg College; and

Whereas, T.L.'s college education was interrupted by World War II, and he enlisted in the Navy, rising through the ranks, ultimately becoming a skipper of an LST (a Landing Ship Tank) in the Pacific theater. He retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Junior Grade; and

Whereas, upon returning from the war, he enrolled at Roanoke College, receiving a bachelor's degree in economics in 1946, and immediately thereafter undertook his law studies at the University of Virginia. Attending classes for 24 consecutive months, he graduated in 1948; and

Whereas, T.L. began his law practice in Roanoke in 1948 with John Strickler with whom he was associated, along with Glenwood Strickler, for about nine years, specializing in title and real estate work. He early gained an outstanding reputation as a pre-eminent title examiner and expert in local real estate matters and history; and

Whereas, T.L. left the Stricklers in the early 1960's and in 1973 formed a partnership with Joseph D. Logan, III, which continued until Joe Logan's retirement in 1996. Deborah Oehlschlaeger joined T.L. in 1993, and T. L. and she practiced until T.L.'s retirement in 2006; and

Whereas, T.L. married the former Rose Ina Weeks in 1956, and they were married for 51 years when Rose Ina died on June 28, 2008. T.L. said that he and Rose Ina never had an argument, and this was undoubtedly true because T.L. was in his marriage, as he was in all other areas of his life, a humble and gentle man. T.L. and Rose Ina were the happy and proud parents of three children—Theodore L. “Ted” Plunkett, III, Mary K. Plunkett Bayse and Martha Plunkett Duncan; and

Whereas, T.L.'s most significant community activity and contribution, other than service to his fellow man and woman through his dedication to the law, was centered and grounded in his church—Roanoke's First Baptist Church, of which he was a member for over sixty years, serving on the Board of Trustees for many of those years and as Sunday school teacher of the business man's class for more than a decade; and

Whereas, T.L. unstintingly served the Bar, both as Commissioner in Chancery in this Circuit for 55 years and as Commissioner of Accounts for this Circuit Court for more than 22 years. He was a member of the Council of the Virginia State Bar and the Executive Committee of the Virginia State Bar. A member of this Roanoke Bar Association, he rarely missed one of its monthly luncheon meetings, and served as president in 1973 and 1974; and

Whereas, T.L. was universally respected by the bench, members of the bar, his clients, friends and his fellow church members. He was called "a giant of the law in our midst" by one of his closest friends and our departed colleague, Judge Jack Coulter. He was always professional, courteous and helpful. He was a lawyer's lawyer, and there was a frequent parade of lawyers who would stop in to talk with him, or who would call him seeking his uncommon wisdom on some ticklish legal issue or another; and

Whereas, T.L.'s service and devotion to the bar and his community did not go unrecognized. He was the winner of the Tradition of Excellence Award from the General Practice Section of the Virginia State Bar in 2000. And he was honored by this Bar Association as the first recipient of the Frank W. "Bo" Rogers, Jr., Lifetime Achievement Award of the Roanoke Bar Association in 2006; and

Whereas, T.L. was an unassuming man, a disciplined lawyer, with a wonderful wry sense of humor, and he loved to tell the stories of the interesting people he met and the court cases he tried. His professionalism always exceeded anyone's expectation. He set a high bar in the dedication he displayed to the bar, bench and public, and his activities and contributions helped to enhance the image and esteem of all lawyers. His largeness was not established by the number of headlines he accumulated or the organizations he joined. He is and will be remembered for his decency, his steadiness, his generosity, his dignity. Largeness is a lifelong matter, and T.L. never stopped doing good in his community. His life reminds us that all lawyers should strive to do the same; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of T.L. Plunkett and holds his memory and his contributions to the legal profession and to the community in the highest 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 to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, with motions that the resolution be spread upon the permanent common law order books of those courts; and that copies of this resolution also be furnished to the family of T.L. Plunkett to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds T.L. 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 12th day of October, 2010.

Francis H. Casola, President
Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Thomas H. Miller, Secretary
Roanoke Bar Association