



## **A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE M. CALDWELL BUTLER**

WHEREAS, M. Caldwell Butler was born on June 27, 1925 in Roanoke, Virginia to Dr. William Wilson Samuel Butler and Sarah Poage Caldwell Butler and died on July 28, 2014 in Roanoke, Virginia; was a brother to William Wilson Samuel Butler, III; became an Eagle Scout in 1941 and the Blue Ridge Council's first Distinguished Eagle Scout in 1973; and graduated from Roanoke's Jefferson High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler attended Richmond College in the fall of 1942; volunteered in July 1943 to serve our nation by joining the United States Naval Reserve V-12 program; became an Ensign after graduating from Midshipman's School at Columbia University in March 1945; and was discharged from active duty on July 11, 1946 as Officer-in-Charge of a crash boat responsible for Air-Sea Rescue for Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler returned to Richmond College to complete his undergraduate degree, becoming a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduating in 1948; and attended law school at the University of Virginia, where he served on the Editorial Board of the Virginia Law Review, was a member of the Raven Society, and received the Order of the Coif on the road to receiving his law degree in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler married June Parker Nolde of Richmond, the woman who would become his wife of 64 years and the love of his life, and returned to Roanoke for his first work as an attorney with the firm of Eggleston, Holton, Butler, and Glenn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler ran for Roanoke City Council in 1958, losing the race but returning in 1961 to win a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the first Republican from Roanoke to be elected to the House in a half-century, and went on to become House Minority Leader, being commended in 2001 by a Resolution of the General Assembly for his distinguished service to Roanoke and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler ran for and won the Sixth District seat in the United States House of Representatives in 1972, where he would serve until January 1983; served on the House Judiciary Committee for ten years, a time during which he helped affirm Gerald Ford to succeed

Spiro Agnew as Vice President, played a prominent and principled role during the impeachment proceedings of President Richard Nixon in the Judiciary Committee, and then helped approve Nelson Rockefeller to serve as Vice President when Gerald Ford ascended to the presidency; was appointed a member of the Board of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and a member of the Congressional delegation to Great Britain to receive the Magna Carta for viewing during the 1976 Bicentennial; was the main author of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978; and worked diligently throughout his time in the House on legislation related to criminal law, constitutional amendments, patents, and immigration; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from Congress, Mr. Butler joined the Roanoke law firm of Woods, Rogers, Muse, Walker, and Thornton and worked there until his retirement in 1998; served on the National Bankruptcy Review Commission from 1997 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, as a descendant of United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, Mr. Butler became one of the first members of the John Marshall Foundation; served on the Boards of Directors for the City of Roanoke Library Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Virginia Theological Seminary; and was a member of many professional organizations including the Roanoke Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar, and the American Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler was a lifelong member of St. John's Episcopal Church and a member of the church's Vestry; and was named to the Junior Achievement of the Roanoke Valley Business Hall of Fame in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler led a life guided by strong convictions, leaving an indelible impression on the laws of our land; leading by example through a true respect for the rule of law, a keen sense of right and wrong, thoughtful and deliberate decision making, integrity, and lending a kind ear and a helping hand to his constituents as a legislator and to his fellow citizens in private life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler was a loving husband to his wife June, sacrificing much for her and his children but serving as a devoted and proud father to Manley, Henry, Jimmy, and Marshall, taking much pride and joy in their many endeavors, adventures, and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Butler lived up to the billing of being a Virginia gentleman in the truest sense while also being a man with a passionate sense of civic responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association honors the memory of the Honorable M. Caldwell Butler and mourns his loss along with his family, the Bar Association, and the entire Roanoke Valley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be furnished to United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia and the Circuit Courts of the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the City of Salem, with motions that the Resolution be spread upon the permanent order books of those courts; that a copy be sent to the Clerks of Court for the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the City of Salem; and that a copy be sent to his family, to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds Mr. Butler 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 8th day of September, 2015.

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Joseph W. H. Mott  
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

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Kevin W. Holt  
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association