



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
MEMORIALIZING THE LATE JAMES PEARCE BRICE**

WHEREAS Judge Brice was born on August 7, 1926 in Roanoke, Virginia and raised during the Great Depression by a self-taught Pharmacist who ran a drug store on Grandin Road next to the Grandin Theater; and

WHEREAS Judge Brice departed this life on September 15, 2016.

WHEREAS Judge Brice entered Virginia Military Institute (VMI) at age 16, leaving immediately upon his 18th birthday to join the Merchant Marines, where he dodged torpedoes as helmsman on an oil tanker in the North Atlantic. During this time, he lost his brother, 1st Lt. Ranger Platoon Commander Robert Brice to a German bullet on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

WHEREAS prior to the war's conclusion, Judge Brice joined the United States Army and became a Japanese interrogator and translator. After the Japanese surrender, he served with distinction in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in northern Hokkaido, a dangerous duty station where he confronted Russian subversives and interrogated suspected Japanese loyalist.

WHEREAS after leaving the Army, Judge Brice obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctorate from Washington and Lee Law School in 1954. His career took him from private practice, to the Veterans Administration, through the United States District Attorney's Office, and finally to the Roanoke General District Court, where he

served as a judge from 1967 to 1987. There he became known as an even-handed jurist with a big heart. He retired in 1987 and then traveled as a substitute judge across the state, where he delighted in visiting obscure historical sites.

WHEREAS Judge Brice enjoyed the company of numerous lawyers and fellow judges both during his time on the bench and afterwards, especially being a devout member and participant in Shella's Coffee Club where he would annually recite -- completely from memory-- the entire version of Casey at The Bat and even performed his own versions of The Night Before Christmas. Such wit and humor was also characterized by his sparring with fellow judges and correcting their boasts and achievements of past athletic events often bringing candid elements of truth to light. Such unique and enjoyable bouts of wit will be deeply missed.

WHEREAS Judge Brice is survived by his charming and talented wife of 62 years, Phyllis; his son James; his son Stephen and his wife, Victoria; and his son Michael; and grandchildren, Taryn, Trey and Mellissa.

WHEREAS the Roanoke Bar Association does hereby express its deepest sympathy to the family of Judge James Pearce Brice and recognizes his distinguished career and service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Circuit Court 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 Judge James Pearce Brice's family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds "Judge Brice" 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 April, 2017.

Hugh B. Wellons, Esq.
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

J. Lee E. Osborne, Esq.
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association