



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
MEMORIALIZING THE LATE CHARLES O. CORNELISON**

WHEREAS the Honorable Charles Owen Cornelison died unexpectedly in his beloved Town of Blacksburg, home to Virginia Tech on Friday, October 23, 2015 at the age of 70.

WHEREAS Judge Cornelison was born in Key West, Florida on September 19, 1945 to Margaret and O.P. Cornelison and grew up in Roanoke County Virginia.

WHEREAS Charles Cornelison graduated from Cave Spring High School in Roanoke and earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech in 1967. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Highty-Tighty Regimental Band. During his senior year, he served as the Band Company Commander and earned the Senior Service Award, which now bears his name. After graduation in 1967, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, US Army and served in Military Intelligence. He earned his law degree from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia in 1971 and returned to Roanoke to practice law. He was an associate with the firm of Copenhaver, Ellett, and Lawrence from 1971-1980 and became a partner with the firm in 1974.

WHEREAS Judge Cornelison was elected to serve as a General District Court Judge in the 23rd Judicial District from 1980 until his retirement from the bench in 1984. Upon his retirement in 1984, Judge Cornelison returned to the practice of law with the firm of Copenhaver, Ellett, Cornelison and Derrico.

WHEREAS Charles Cornelison served three terms on the Board of Directors for the Roanoke Bar Association and from 1996-1997, and served as president of the Roanoke Bar Association. Charles Cornelison helped found the Roanoke Bar Association Foundation,

the scholarship arm of the Roanoke Bar Association, and served one term as Foundation president from 1997-1998. Additionally, he served one term as the president of the Roanoke area Partnership of Philanthropic Planning.

WHEREAS Charlese Cornelison retired from the practice of law in 2005, and began serving his alma mater as an Associate Director of Gift Planning at Virginia Tech until his retirement in August 2013.

WHEREAS Charles Cornelison loved all things Virginia Tech. His greatest passion was to preserve the tradition of the Highty-Tighty Regimental Band and the Corps of Cadets. Charles Cornelison founded and served as the first president of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. beginning in 1975 and continued to serve in that position for twenty-seven years. He served as President of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni, Inc. from 1995-2000 and then as Chairman from 2000-2005. In recognition of his service and unwavering dedication, the boards of both alumni organizations honored him with Emeritus status and he continued to serve on the boards of both organizations until his death. In 2000, a scholarship was created in his name to honor his service to the Highty-Tighty Regimental Band. Charles was instrumental, with others, in preserving the corps in its darkest days at the end of the Cold War.

WHEREAS Charles Cornelison is survived by his former wife, Bobbie; daughter, Anne Murphy and husband, Conor of Atlanta; son, John Charles Cornelison of Raleigh; two grandchildren and three nephews.

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Bar Association, does hereby express its deepest sympathy to the family of Charles Cornelison 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 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 Charles O. Cornelison's family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds "Charlie" 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 October, 2016.

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

TESTE:

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