



**A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING
THE LATE HONORABLE KENNETH E. TRABUE**

WHEREAS the Honorable Kenneth E. Trabue, a member of this Association who exhibited wisdom, patience, integrity, and humility, not only throughout his judicial career, but in all aspects of his life, died on May 25, 2015 at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue was highly respected by his fellow judges throughout the Commonwealth, and served the Roanoke Bar Association as director from 1970 through 1973 and as an officer of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, culminating in his service as president of the VTLA from 1976 through 1977; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue, who was born in Alton, Illinois on August 13, 1933, was graduated from Purdue University in 1956, and received the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University in 1961; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue served our nation as a member of the United States Army Reserve, in which he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1956, serving on active duty in ordinance at Aberdeen Proving Grounds through December of 1957, and remained a member of the active reserve, serving in the Salem, Virginia garrison through 1965, attaining the rank of captain; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue was admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 1962, coming to Roanoke as a claims manager for the St. Paul Insurance Companies, entering the active practice of law three years later, and in 1967, becoming a partner in the Roanoke law firm of Hunter, Fox, and Trabue, where he practiced until taking the bench; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue earned a reputation as a superb trial lawyer, primarily in the defense of civil cases, developing particular expertise in medical malpractice cases; and at the same was well known by other lawyers -- particularly including those who were his adversaries in litigation -- for openness, fairness, and collegiality; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly elected Judge Trabue to the bench of the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit of Virginia for a term that began on July 1, 1977, and he served with distinction as judge and chief judge of the Circuit Courts of the City and

County of Roanoke and City of Salem, presiding with wisdom, courtesy, knowledge, equanimity, good humor, and compassion until he retired in 1995 after 18 years of active serve; and

WHEREAS when he was sworn in Judge Trabue promised that his door would always be open, a promise that he kept as he freely gave of his time, knowledge and wisdom, particularly to young lawyers, and he served as an exemplar to those who followed him onto the bench; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Virginia frequently called upon Judge Trabue to preside by designation in cases of particular delicacy or difficulty, and he served for many years as a member of the panel of judges designated to hear annexation cases and similar disputes involving counties and cities; and

WHEREAS after Judge Trabue retired he sat by designation with the Court of Appeals of Virginia, writing both published and unpublished opinions for the Court; and sat by designation in circuit courts throughout the Commonwealth; and was a skilled and popular certified mediator with the McGammon Group from 1996 through 2013; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue was fully committed to all of his communities, including the Virginia bench and bar, the Roanoke Valley, his Smith Mountain Lake community, his Green Turtle Cove community in Florida, and his beloved New Piasa Chautauqua on the banks of the Mississippi River in Illinois, with which his family has long been associated; and was Charter President of the Cave Spring Jaycees and a life member of the Virginia Jaycees, a member and chair of the Board of Trustees of Christ Community Church in Penhook, Virginia, and president of the Green Turtle Cove Condominium Association; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue was deeply committed to his faith, devoted to his family, and avidly enjoyed sailing and skiing; and

WHEREAS Judge Trabue is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Mary Ann Trabue, by his children, Karen Scherzer, Kenneth Trabue, Sally Siveroni, and Charles Trabue, by their spouses, and by nine grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association does hereby express its deepest sympathy to the family of Judge Trabue, and recognizes his distinguished career and service to the Commonwealth of Virginia; 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 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 the family of Judge Trabue as an expression of sympathy and esteem.

GIVEN under the hands of the president and secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 13th day of September, 2016.

Hugh B. Wellons
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

J. Lee E. Osborne
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association