



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION MEMORIALIZING
THE LIFE OF THE LATE PATRICK T. FENNEL**

WHEREAS, Patrick Thomas Fennell, an accomplished civil trial lawyer, a member of this Association, and a consummate husband, father, and friend, died on June 13, 2021 at age 59; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was born in Washington, D.C. on August 12, 1961, the youngest of seven, and graduated from St. John's College High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts from the Tulane University in 1983, and commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy, where he served for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Patrick served two tours in the Western Pacific, first aboard the *USS Denver* (LPD-9) as a Navigation Officer, and then the *USS Harold E. Holt* (FF-1074) as a Weapons Officer, followed by two more tours during the Persian Gulf War;

WHEREAS, as a senior Lieutenant, Patrick served as the Operations Officer on the guided missile frigate *USS Taylor* (FFG-50) which in August 1990, at the time Iraq invaded Kuwait, was one of only three American ships in the Persian Gulf, facing the highest threats of mines, missiles, and chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, during that crucial time, Patrick served as one of two Tactical Action Officers manning the Combat Information Center, where the ship employed its

defensive and offensive systems, for rotating shifts of six hours on-duty, six hours off-duty, every day for months on end; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was thereafter appointed to Assistant Operations Officer for the Commander of Destroyer Squadron 36 (DESRON-36), on whose staff Patrick flew between various ships in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf during the war; and

WHEREAS, Patrick earned additional degrees including a Master of Science in National Security Affairs at the United States Navy Postgraduate School in 1988, and following the Navy career, a *Juris Doctor* from Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary in 1996, when he began the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, Patrick practiced law in the Roanoke area firms of Carter, Brown & Osborne, P.C., then Magee, Foster, Goldstein & Sayers, P.C., and later Crandall & Katt, working in various fields of civil litigation with particular expertise in personal injury trial practice, assisting hundreds of individuals and families, and winning numerous trial verdicts, practicing at all times with the highest personal standard of ethics and honesty; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2012, Patrick embarked on an odyssey that started with representing 68 clients from multiple states who suffered meningitis and resulting injuries or deaths arising from contaminated steroid injections, leading to multi-district litigation consolidated in the U.S. District Court in Boston, Massachusetts, where the judge appointed Patrick to the seven-member Plaintiffs' Steering Committee responsible for coordinating the litigation of thousands of claims across the nation, at

which he diligently labored for over five years, culminating in tens of millions of dollars in settlements for Virginia clients; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Patrick achieved his long-time goal of launching his own law firm, Patrick Fennell, Attorney at Law, PC, where he was blessed by the faithful support of his long-time paralegal Carey Hargenrader, and continued to serve with his characteristic persistence and selfless dedication to his clients, overcoming the debilitating challenges of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), working through muscular paralysis and fatigue with an unbreakable will, quiet courage, and unshakable faith in God; and

WHEREAS, Patrick found great joy and profound satisfaction throughout his life in simple pursuits that reflected his strong character, whether he be racing sailboats off of Monterey, chopping wood in Botetourt County, spending time with his family, or attending mass at St. Andrew's Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, greater than his career achievements, Patrick was a grateful and humble man who preferred the view from the high road rather than the blinding glare of the spotlight, a faithful servant of Christ who strove to truly know God, an adoring champion of his wife Nancy Fennell throughout their marriage of 33 years, and a proud and loving father of two sons, Patrick and James, who carry on their father's legacy with their own unique character and ambitions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association does hereby express its sympathy to the family of Patrick Fennell, and recognizes his distinguished character and career; 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 Patrick Fennell to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds him 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 9th day of November, 2021.

Macel H. Janoschka, Esq.
President Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Christen C. Church, Esq.
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association