



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION MEMORIALIZING
THE LIFE OF THE LATE HONORABLE JACKSON L. KISER**

WHEREAS, the Honorable Jackson Linticum Kiser, a renowned member of the Southwest and Southside Virginia legal community and the federal bench in Danville and Roanoke, a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, and mentor, and an unparalleled example of humility, kindness, and professionalism, departed this earthly life on October 21, 2020, leaving the world a better place for his presence and work in it; and

WHEREAS, Jackson L. Kiser was born on June 24, 1929, in Welch, West Virginia, he spent most of his young life in Bramwell, West Virginia (“Home of the Millionaires”), and graduated from Bramwell High School. His parents were the late Florence Linticum Kiser, a school teacher, and William Robinette Kiser, a bookkeeper.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser graduated from Concord College in 1951. He then enrolled at Washington and Lee University School of Law, obtaining his law degree (in two years) in 1953. Following his graduation from law school, Judge Kiser moved to Washington, D.C. where he served as an officer in the United States Army JAG Corps, and later, in the United States Army Reserves, attaining the rank

of Captain. In 1953, while working at the Pentagon, he met the love of his life, Carole Gorman. They were married in 1954.

WHEREAS, in 1955, Judge Kiser moved to Galax, Virginia to engage in the general practice of law. In 1956, he unsuccessfully ran for Congress, but was subsequently appointed an assistant United States Attorney and moved to Roanoke, Virginia in 1957.

WHEREAS, in 1960, he met his future law partner, Jim Young, while the two were working on a case opposite each other in Roanoke. Thereafter, Judge Kiser accepted Jim Young's invitation to join him in what became the premiere law firm in southside Virginia of Young, Kiser, Mann,

Gregory, & Haskins. In 1975, Judge Kiser and his law partner, Jim Young, secured one of the first million-dollar verdicts in state court, a verdict so significant for the time that the trial judge concluded it 'shocked his conscience'.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser understood clearly that while he represented clients as their attorney at law, he also understood that he was their counsellor at law. In one particular case that he fondly recounted, he told the story of a personal injury plaintiff he was representing and to whom Judge Kiser had sent a draft Motion for Judgment. This client was very concerned that the Motion for Judgment contained a 'prayer for relief', and the client was troubled that they had not prayed.

Without missing a beat, Judge Kiser and Jim Young apologized for their glaring oversight, and promptly invited their client to join them on bended knee to

‘pray for relief.’

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser had a diverse law practice and quickly became known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the law and expertise in the courtroom, President Ronald Reagan nominated Judge Kiser to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia in

November 1981. During his tenure, Judge Kiser was the presiding judge in the Danville Division, and ably served as the Chief Judge of the division from 1993 to 1997. He assumed senior status in 1997, but continued to maintain an active docket in Danville for the next 23 years.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser understood the importance of maintaining balance in one’s professional and personal life, he always made his family a priority, commenting many times that the best part of his otherwise long day was when he pulled into his driveway on White Oak Court in Martinsville. When he was not otherwise consumed with lengthy hearings or trials, he routinely visited the local YMCA in Danville for a lunch-time swim, which kept him in peak physical shape for his favorite avocation of chasing that little white ball around the Chatmoss links with wife Carole and/or his numerous golfing buddies.

WHEREAS, over the course of his career on the bench, Judge Kiser presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases, including trials in the *United States v. Virginia*, the landmark case involving Virginia Military Institute’s male only admission policy, and *United States v. Morrison*, a matter involving congressional authority to enact the Violence Against Women Act. Both cases were ultimately

decided by the United States Supreme Court, and are regularly taught in law schools across the county.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser had a demanding standard for all those who appeared in his court, including himself. At one point, Judge Kiser fined himself for being late to court, stating matter-of-factly that the rules apply to everyone.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser mentored over 60 law clerks, he showed them by his word and example that justice, preparation, advocacy, professionalism, and compassion are not mutually exclusive.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser was, above all, a loving husband to Carole, a devoted father to his three children, Bill, Beth, and John, a proud grandfather to his four grandchildren, and a good and loyal friend to his brother, William.

WHEREAS, Judge Kiser is and will be greatly missed by all who knew him and loved him, it is hereby RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association expresses its deep sympathy to the family of Jackson L. Kiser, laments his passing, holds his memory and many contributions to the law and his community in high regard, and to that end,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association honors the memory of the Honorable Jackson L. Kiser, and mourns his loss to his family, the court family of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, the Bar Association, and to the entire Roanoke Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be furnished to all divisions of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia with motions that the resolution be spread upon the permanent order books of the court; and that copies of this resolution be furnished to his family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds Jackson L. Kiser 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 this Association this 12th day of April, 2022.

Macel H. Janoschka, Esq.
President Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

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