



Judge Watson L. White

January 1, 1921 - December 13, 2014

Judge Watson Lawrence White, of Marietta, Georgia, passed away on Saturday December 13, 2014 at Tranquility at Kennesaw Mountain Hospice Care Center. Judge White served as a judge in Cobb County, Georgia for more than four decades and was a devoted husband, loving father and joyful grandfather.

Born on January 1, 1921 in Carroll County, Georgia, to Walter and Lura White, Watson was a graduate of Douglas County High School. After high school he served in the United States Army during WWII, where he was assigned to an 95th Infantry Division, driving armored transport vehicles throughout France and Germany, including fighting in Patton's Third Army during the Battle of the Bulge. Watson was honorably discharged from the Army in December 1945 and used the GI Bill to enroll at the University of Georgia in January 1946. He graduated from his beloved alma mater with a law degree in 1951. While at UGA, Watson was a member of the Gridiron Society, the Business Manager of the Red and Black Student Newspaper, President of the Demosthenian Society, Vice President of the Blue Key Honor Society, Member of the Student Union, and Secretary of the Grand Old Party of Non-Fraternal Men.

Upon graduation Watson moved to Marietta, Georgia where he worked at Lockheed-Martin as a manager until he saved enough money to open his own law practice on the Marietta Square in 1955. He was first elected to Cobb County State Court in 1968 and sat as a judge in that court for 10 years. He was elected to Cobb County Superior Court in 1978, and was the Chief Judge of that court from 1985 until he stepped down in 1994. During that time he also served two years as the Administrative Judge of the Seventh Judicial Administrative District from 1988-1990. He then continued sitting on the bench as a Senior Judge in Cobb County Superior Court until his retirement at age 91, in October 2012. Judge White presided over numerous significant trials, established the first Divorcing Parents Seminar program in the country, and was awarded the Bobby Cleveland Professionalism Award by the Cobb County Bar Association in 1994.

Judge White was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church and was on the

church's Board of Trustees, the Board of Stewards, and was teacher of the Progressive Sunday School Class. Judge White was also active in the Jaycees and the Marietta Lyons Club.

Watson is survived by his wife Nancy Rainey White, his children, Susan Griffin and her husband Don of Marietta, Ga., Daniel White and his wife Katie of Marietta, Ga., and his step-daughters, Elizabeth Hodges Weaver and her husband Dick, of Marietta, Ga. and Lea Hodges Hallab and her husband Safwan, of Southlake, Tex. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Thomas Marshbanks of Smyrna, Ga., Caroline Marshbanks of Marietta, Ga., Aaron Weaver of St. Louis, Mizz., Mark and Kyle Beckman of Marietta, Ga., Emma Hallab of Oklahoma City, Ok., Hannah and Jena Hallab of Southlake, Tex., Nan and Georgia Boone of Marietta, Ga., Kelly and Katie Griffin of Marietta, Ga., and Mary Evelyne, Maggie Beth, John Watson, Michelle Elsa and Jose Walter White, all of Marietta, Ga. Watson was also survived by his sisters Mildred Ann Ruffner, of Los Alamitos, Cal., and Kay Burns, of Cleveland, Tenn., and his brother Robert White, of Marietta, Ga., along with many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Mayes-Ward-Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel. A memorial service will be held at Marietta First United Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. A private graveside service will be held for family later that day. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to WellStar Community Hospice.

Events

DEC **Funeral Service** 01:00PM
17

First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave SW, Marietta, GA, US, 30064

Comments



“ To Daniel who has served as attorney for the Board of Elections and to Elizabeth who serves as a poll worker and is a fellow Public Services Agency employee, please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. May you both, and your entire extended families, have the peace that only God can give during this difficult time.

Janine Eveler - Director of Elections

Janine Eveler - December 17, 2014 at 08:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judge Watson L. White.



December 15, 2014 at 04:15 PM



“ I served as Courtroom Clerk to Judge White back in the 1970s. He was always so professional and seemed to care about justice. He always treated me with as much respect as he did lawyers coming before him.

Dale Graham

Dale Graham - December 15, 2014 at 10:08 AM



“ REMEMBRING A LEGEND - JUDGE WATSON L. WHITE

Last Saturday I heard the heart-wrenching and chilling news that Judge White had been called home. For me, it is with a feeling of great honor to call him a friend and today is a lot darker without him but immeasurably better because of him.

Of all the great people I have known, I have never encountered a finer individual than Judge White. He was unique in so many positive ways. He was a gracious, inspiring friend.

Judge White was a genial, generous, wise and religious man who touched the lives of nearly everyone he met. Every path he crossed he touched lives. He left a lasting impression with everyone. He certainly touched and had an enormous impact on my life. Though I am saddened by his loss, I am heartened by the knowledge that his towering legacy will live on in all those touched by his life.

It was evident to everyone who knew him that he was an honest man of incredible integrity, a hard worker and a humble, generous person. He had a certain charisma that made you feel comfortable.

Judge White had a compassionate wisdom, and he was a man of unshakable calm, confidence, grace and stle. He did his judging with such class and eloquence. He had a great mix of sincerety, credibility, toughness, kindness and humor. He was a very special person. He embodied civility and profound human decency.

I had the honor of working in Judge White's courtroom for two years as a depty clerk. And he was one of the judges who appointed me to be the first Judge of the Magistrate Court of Cobb County. Therefore, I am sincerely grateful for the enormous impact Judge White had on my life. I am truly blessed that he was a part of my life. My life has been immeasurably better because of him.

So, Judge White, I say thank you. I salute you for your brilliant mind, for your unparalleled judging ability, for your passion and commitment to justice, for your generosity, for your spirituality, for your truth, and for your deep devotion to your family.

I know that God has a special place in heaven for such a special person who made such a huge difference in so many lives. The world is most definitely a better place because of Judge White.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Judge White's family. But greater than the sorrow from his death is the joy he spread in his life. His wisdom and love will continue to guide each

one of his children and grandchildren. And as he rest from his life's long labor, this great husband, father, grandfather and friend should know that he made his family, and more particularly this friend, proud.

Sammy Hawkins

Sammy Hawkins - December 15, 2014 at 08:48 PM



“ The Honorable Judge was my judge way back n 1986, a rouge cop wrote me up on a "bougas "charge"he was my Judge, I'm a be Navy , retired veteran, he was Army ,ww2, we r Brother's I will love and respect him "forever

Gerald Joe Burton - January 26 at 07:12 PM



“ He nodded off , during my trial, we got a good laugh out of that 🤔

Gerald Joe Burton - January 26 at 07:14 PM



“ I just recently be came aware he passed away, iv always thought about him over the years, he was a Great man

Gerald Joe Burton - January 26 at 07:17 PM



“ He got bored with the cop lying his face off

Gerald Joe Burton - January 26 at 07:19 PM