

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

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DEP. CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT,
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA.

IN RE: B. Avant Edenfield

ORDER

The Clerk of the Superior Court is **HEREBY ORDERED** to spread the attached Resolution on the official Minutes of the Superior Court of the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia.

SO ORDERED, this 23 day of Nov., 2015.

M. L. Karpf

MICHAEL L. KARPf,
CHIEF JUDGE SUPERIOR
COURT, EJC GEORGIA

A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF JUDGE B. AVANT EDENFIELD
August 2, 1934 - May 9, 2015
Adopted by the Members of the Savannah Bar Association

WHEREAS, the Members of the Savannah Bar Association deeply regret the death of Judge B. Avant Edenfield on May 9, 2015 and hereby wish to honor him:

A native of Stilson, Bulloch County, Georgia, Judge Edenfield moved to Savannah in 1978 when he was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. Judge Edenfield was a graduate of Stilson High School, the University of Georgia, and the University of Georgia Law School. Born the son of Terry Edenfield and Vera Berry Edenfield, he was a descendant of David Edenfield who was captured by the British at the battle of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

Judge Edenfield was proud of the Stilson Community and the values and work ethic that he learned there. He captained Stilson's state championship basketball team in 1952 and was Georgia's Vice President of the Future Farmers of America at Stilson High School.

After enrolling at the University of Georgia, he earned many scholastic honors. Beginning as a freshman he was an unpaid tutor of history for the football team. No doubt employing his persuasive personality, but without knowing anything about golf, he convinced the University of Georgia Athletic Department to hire him as a beginning golf instructor. He later said about the experience: "I quickly got my hands on a golf instruction book and always declined to give personal demonstrations."

Judge Edenfield was an intellectual powerhouse. He was on the Dean's List throughout law school, served as President of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, Associate Justice of the Honor Court, President of the Demosthenian Literary Society and was a member of the Blue Key Honor Society.

After graduating from law school in 1958, he was inducted into the United States Army and for the next six years was an enlisted member of the United States Army and the Georgia National Guard.

Judge Edenfield began practicing law in Statesboro with Francis W. Allen and the firm later became known as Allen, Edenfield, Brown and Wright. He practiced for twenty years in virtually all areas of the law as a trial lawyer before he was appointed to the bench. He was named the Outstanding

Young Man of Bulloch County in 1965. He was a founder and charter member of the Statesboro Kiwanis Club and was selected by the Statesboro Rotary Club in 1978 as Bulloch County Man of the Year.

In 1964, Judge Edenfield was elected to the Georgia State Senate. He served as Chairman of the Capital Punishment Study Committee, authoring the majority report that dramatically changed the laws regarding the death penalty in Georgia.

He was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia in 1978 and he and his life-long companion and wife, Melvis, moved and became proud residents of Savannah. He served as Chief Judge of the Court for seven years from 1990 to 1997 and assumed senior status in 2006. Judge Edenfield was invited to serve in many different federal courts and traveled extensively, trying cases, in many jurisdictions including in the Panama Canal Zone before the United States ceded its sovereignty. He served on the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council, was President of the District Judge Association for the Eleventh Circuit, was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist to serve on the Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, served on the Pattern Jury Charge Committee for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits for approximately 27 years, was a member of the Archives Committee of the Fifth Circuit, and served on numerous other committees for the judiciary and bar.

Judge Edenfield had a strong work ethic and an unwavering love for and allegiance to the law. Even during senior status he maintained a full case load and continued to write concise, thoughtful and well-reasoned orders. Throughout his time on the bench, Judge Edenfield was a staunch protector of judicial independence and showed no favoritism. The positive mark he left on the laws of this state and nation will last for generations.

An often overlooked trait of Judge Edenfield was his delightful sense of humor. Though many lawyers and parties who appeared in his Court over the years might have missed this aspect of his character, Judge Edenfield was an insightful and prolific story teller. He loved to hear a good story as much as he loved to tell one and he was not afraid to make himself the focus of his humor as proven by his self-deprecating (and very inaccurate) reference to a "lifetime struggle with ignorance".

Judge Edenfield loved his friends and family dearly and was a strong and positive influence on many, many lives. His brother and confidant, Gerald, rose to be President of the State Bar of Georgia, and other members of the Edenfield family have served in key leadership roles in the legal profession and in their communities.


Judge Edenfield was also a man of deep and abiding faith. Throughout his life he studied the Bible and quietly but surely expressed his faith through the accomplishments of his life. He will be forever remembered as a man of intellect, courage, integrity and wit. We have been honored and privileged to have known him.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION
HEREBY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE
B. AVANT EDENFIELD; AND**

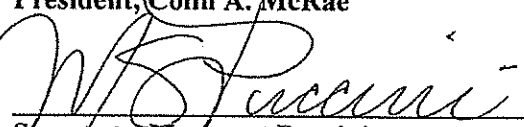
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE
PRESENTED TO MRS. MELVIS EDENFIELD; AND**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR
COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY BE REQUESTED TO ENTER A COPY OF THIS
RESOLUTION UPON THE MINUTES OF THE COURT.**

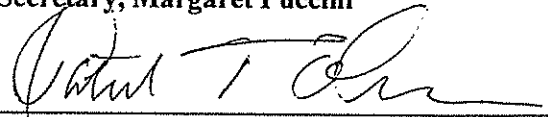
THIS 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.



President, Colin A. McRae



Secretary, Margaret Puccini



Scribe, Patrick T. O'Connor