



IN MEMORIAM – JUDGE ROBERT WILLIAM KIRBY

WHEREAS, the Honorable Judge Robert William Kirby, long-time resident of Gaston County, was born October 16, 1928 and was the son of Methodist Minister, Reverend Cicero W. Kirby, and Ruth McPhail Kirby; and,

WHEREAS, before his passing on January 23, 2021, Judge Kirby resided in Cherryville for more than five decades where he and June, his late wife of 59 years, raised their three sons, Robert Jr., Chris, and Greg. He was a faithful and active member of the First United Methodist Church of Cherryville; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Kirby served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from High Point University and his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He practiced law in Gastonia and Cherryville prior to being appointed as a Gaston County Solicitor. He became a District Court Judge in 1968 and was elected as a Superior Court Judge for the 27-A Judicial District in 1974. He remained on the Superior Court Bench until he retired in 2000. After retirement, he held court sometimes as an emergency judge and also developed a successful mediation practice; and,

WHEREAS, he was known by his family and friends as “Judge or Bob”, and is remembered by many of his colleagues and friends as being kind, easy-going and gracious to all the citizens who appeared in front of him. According to Cherryville City Manager, Jeff Cash, “he was a highly respected man, who for years swore in municipal officials to new terms”, and,

WHEREAS, Judge Kirby also played an instrumental role in the construction of the current Courthouse campus. His leadership and common sense approach helped navigate the many complex issues surrounding the project, fostering collaboration throughout the process and ensuring its successful completion in 1998; and,

WHEREAS, former Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Jesse Caldwell, remarked when learning of his death, that of all the judges he had known, or known of, in the past 48 years, “Judge Robert Kirby was the most beloved, most respected, and most admired. He was an excellent judge, not only because of his temperament, but by reason of his understanding of human nature, keen sense of fairness, and common sense.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners expresses its heartfelt appreciation for Judge Kirby’s many contributions to Gaston County and finds it is most fitting to posthumously recognize him by naming the Fourth Floor Jury Assembly Room located in the Gaston County Courthouse as the

Judge Robert William Kirby Jury Assembly Room

while remembering and honoring him as a Judge for “The People”, and for the example he set for generations of future leaders.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 24th Day of August 2021



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Board of Commissioners

Board Action

File #: 21-133

Commissioner Fraley - BOC - Resolution In Memoriam - Recognizing Judge Robert William Kirby for His Many Contributions to Gaston County and to Dedicate and Rename the Fourth Floor Jury Assembly Room in the Gaston County Courthouse in His Honor

STAFF CONTACT

Donna S. Buff - Clerk to the Board - 704-866-3196

BACKGROUND

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution In Memoriam

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelgher	TPhillbeck	RWorley	Vote
2021-233	08/24/2021	CB	RW	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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