

The Order of Service

The Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr., Officiating

Opening Voluntaries Mr. Alvin R. Blount, organist

Processional Improvisation on Day Is Done (*Ar Hyd Y Nos*)

Invocation The Reverend Dr. Timothy Boddie

Hymn 124 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Martin Luther

Scriptures

Old Testament Psalm 46 The Reverend Dr. Nathaniel Irvin

New Testament II Timothy 4:6-8 Chaplain H. Franklin Harris, II

Prayer The Reverend Dr. Norman Rates

Selection "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" Wendell Whalum
Creative Impressions, Mr. Trey McLaughlin, Director

Reflections

Dr. Mallory Millender
Mayor Bob Young
The Honorable John J. Ellington
Mr. S. Brinkley Ruffin

Selection "I Shall Wear a Crown" Thomas Whitfield
Creative Impressions, Mr. Trey McLaughlin, Director

Remarks Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Hollis, Jr.

Acknowledgements Ms. Stephanie Dingle

Selection "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Delores Carpenter
Combined Choirs, Tabernacle Baptist Church
The Reverend Marlon Thompson, Minister of Worship and Arts

Eulogy The Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr.

Medley of Hymns Dr. Joyce F. Johnson, organist

Hymn 540 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James W. Johnson/J. Rosamund Johnson

Recessional Postlude in D Healey William

The Obituary Cont.

practicing law. As Chief Judge in 2005-2006, Judge Ruffin became the first African-American to hold that position in the court's history. During his tenure as Chief Judge, he spearheaded the court's Centennial Year Celebration in 2006.

In addition to his membership in the State Bar of Georgia, he was a member of the bars of the Supreme Court of Georgia, United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and United States District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Georgia.

Judge Ruffin had many professional, civic and religious affiliations. Some of these included: Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia; Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia; Tenth Judicial Administrative District; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education; Georgia Commission on Gender Bias; Court Reform Committee, Governor's Conference on Justice in Georgia; Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Georgia Advisory Council to the Legal Services Program; Judicial Nominating Commission; Georgia Conference of Black Lawyers, Inc.; State Bar Judicial Compensation Committee; American Judicature Society; National Bar Association; American Bar Association, Augusta Bar Association, and the Atlanta Bar Association. He also lectured at professional seminars and at the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada.

The Court of Appeals of Georgia honored Chief Judge Ruffin, Jr. on September 11, 2008 with a ceremony for the unveiling of his portrait. Judge Ruffin's portrait hangs in the Court of Appeals courtroom. Waynesboro, GA, his hometown, has also hung his portrait in its courtroom.

While serving on the Court of Appeals, Judge Ruffin established a residence in Atlanta, GA. He made many friends and attended Friendship Baptist Church. Since his retirement from the Court of Appeals, he remained active, volunteering in community and civic projects and as an instructor at his alma mater, Morehouse College.

Judge Ruffin was preceded in death by his beloved sister, Sarah Ruffin Wims and mother, Anna Louise Ruffin Gordon. Judge Ruffin is survived by his wife, Judith Fennell Ruffin; son, Simeon Brinkley (Candace) Ruffin; father, John H. Ruffin, Sr.; grandsons, Bryson and Ellison Ruffin; sisters, Jeanette Gordon and Shirley Jones-Brady; cousins, Fannie-Mae (Sterling) Wimberly and Mary (Roger) Shank; sister-in-law, Dr. Marsha F. Harris; brother-in-law, Dr. Wesley (Fory) Fennell; nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Among his beloved friends were Clois Herndon, Vernon Jordan, Fred Moore, William Toby, and Ulysses Watkins. Among his significant professional assistants were Gracey Leverett and Tracey Parker.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Active Pallbearers

Mr. Marion Barnes
Mr. Gary Bussey
Mayor Deke Copenhaver
Sheriff Gregory Coursey

Mr. Marion Griffin
Atty. Charles Johnson
Dea. Brian Prince
Dr. Charles Smith

Honorary Pallbearers

Morehouse College Alumni
Howard University Law School Alumni
Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

Flower Bearers

Spelman College Alumnae
The Links, Incorporated

Pre-Service Pastoral Care

The Reverend Billy Alford
The Reverend Rosalyn Panton, Deacon



Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge with sincere appreciation your comforting expressions of sympathy, hospitality, and acts of kindness during our hours of bereavement. ~The Family

*If desired, memorials may be made in Judge Ruffin's memory to
Morehouse College Scholarship Fund or the donor's charity of choice.*

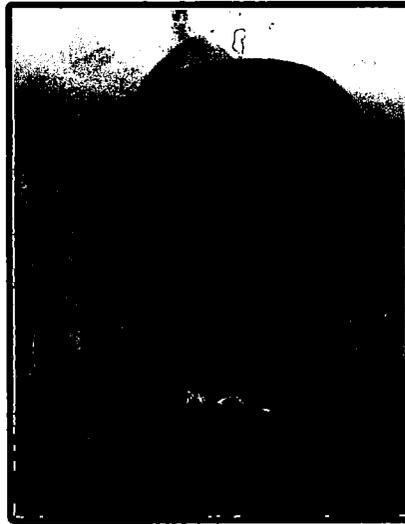


W. H. Mays Mortuary

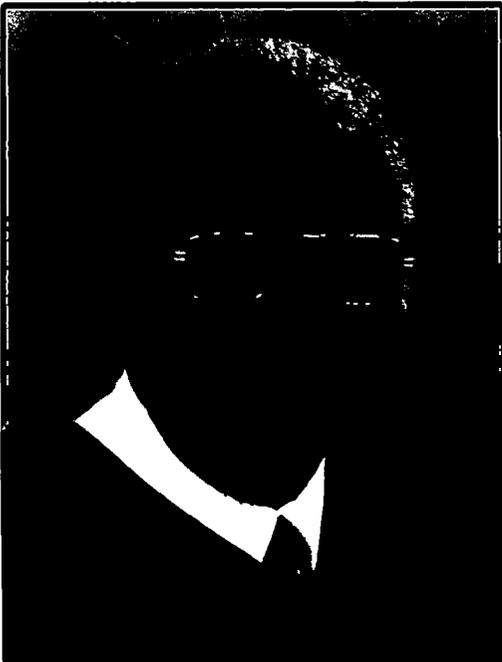
"Professional Service A Family Tradition since 1922"
1221 James Brown Boulevard - Augusta, Georgia
(706) 722-6401



1934



2010



*A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life
of
The Honorable John H. Ruffin, Jr.*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010 - 11:00 A.M.
TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA



THE REVEREND DR. CHARLES E. GOODMAN, JR.
~ OFFICIATING ~

The Obituary

JOHN H. RUFFIN, JR. was born on December 23, 1934 in Waynesboro, Georgia to John H. Ruffin, Sr. and the late Anna Louise Davis Ruffin and died on January 29, 2010. In 1953 he graduated from Waynesboro High and Industrial School. He received degrees from Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA) and Howard University School of Law (Washington, DC). He was admitted to the Georgia Bar on July 5, 1961.

A child born on the heels of the Great Depression, he was taught that Christian principles, academic excellence, hard work and thrift were to be valued. With much support and encouragement, Jack, as he was usually referred, excelled in school. He learned early of his African-American heritage and of the plight of equality for the poor and undereducated, personally experiencing the sting and humiliation of injustice.

At an early age, he joined Thankful Baptist Church in Waynesboro, becoming involved in activities including Sunday School, Junior Missionary, Baptist Training Union and Choir. He could be depended upon to assume leadership roles.

Growing up, time spent with Jack was never boring. He had the innate ability to use humor, wit, and intellect to confound his young relatives, friends, and even adults. Though he had strong convictions and enjoyed good debate, he came to realize the need to be flexible and willing to hear and consider diverse points of view.

Throughout his life, Jack's sense of humor, attention to detail and "calling the shots" as he saw them without excuses were constantly evident. He lived life with purpose bolstered by hope, girded with determination, a strong work ethic and a steadfast desire to foster and build a better community. His crusade for justice on behalf of children is legendary. His mentoring, advising and teaching contributed to the development of countless legal minds.

As a young attorney, he met Miss Judith Fennell, a Spelman College graduate from Bath, South Carolina. After a whirlwind courtship, in 1967 they were joined in Holy Matrimony and made their home in Augusta, GA. To this union, their son, Brinkley, the pride of his life, was born. Jack and his family became loyal members of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Augusta.

Jack never sought the limelight or recognition, but he graciously and gratefully appreciated the many well deserved honors accorded him. He was appointed a Superior Court Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit in 1986 by Governor Joe Frank Harris. In addition to being the first African-American Superior Court Judge for the Augusta Judicial Circuit, Judge Ruffin was also the first African-American member of the Augusta Bar Association. He was elected without opposition in 1988 and continued to serve as Superior Court Judge until his appointment to the Court of Appeals. He became the 62nd Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia when he was administered the oath of office by Governor Zell Miller on August 24, 1994 after 33 years of

An Ode to Brinkley

God didn't consult me about whether I wanted a child,
Such condescension is beneath His style,
Instead He chose my son's mother and me,
As a vehicle for a family of three.

Granted, I had never displayed any reason for any consultations,
Nor had Abraham, the Father of all nations,
I'm not certain I'm the father God wants me to be,
Nor the husband which others think they see.

But Brinkley is our pride and the source of our joy,
What a great son! What a great boy!
No, God didn't consult us about a son,
It was just His will, that this be done.

I'm glad God doesn't consult us about things and such,
But what He has given us, we love very much,
The gift, though not asked for, is beyond all measure,
A life, a son, our family treasure!

--JOHN H. RUFFIN, JR.
7/23/92

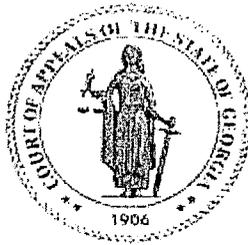
Retirement

I long for the rooster's crowing
As it lifts the shade of day,
I long for the wind to tell me
Where it's been, where it's going—
Sometimes to even take me its way.
I long for the sinless sea
Sometimes raging against a reef or a rock
I long for the wet sand to ooze between my toes
Leisurely, pleurably,
Because I no longer have to watch the clock.

~ John H. Ruffin, Jr. ~



J. Jones '09



COPY

Court of Appeals

Memorandum

To: Chief Judge M. Yvette Miller
From: William L. Martin, III
Subject: Memorial Resolution for Judge Ruffin
Date: February 10, 2010

Attached please find a Memorial Resolution honoring Judge Ruffin.

Thank you.

/ld

Attachment

FYI

10 LC 94 2023

House Resolution 1288

By: Representatives Murphy of the 120th, Ralston of the 7th, Porter of the 143rd, Smyre of the 132nd, Howard of the 121st, and others

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and memory of the Honorable John H. Ruffin, Jr.; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has lost one of her most distinguished public servants, innovative legal minds, and civil rights advocates with the passing of the Honorable John H. Ruffin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, a native of Waynesboro, Georgia, Judge Ruffin earned his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his law degree from Howard University School of Law and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1961;

WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin was the first African American Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, the first African American Superior Court Judge for the Augusta Judicial Circuit, and the first African American member of the Augusta Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, during the nearly five decades Judge Ruffin practiced law and sat on the bench, he was recognized with numerous awards and honors, including a Trailblazer Award from Georgia Minority Judges, a Logan E. Bleckley Award for Judicial Excellence from the Atlanta Bar Association, a Judicial Council Hall of Fame Award from the National Bar Association, an Outstanding Service Award from the National Alumni Association of Morehouse College, and a Man of the Year Award from the Augusta Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin was an honest and dedicated public servant who strove for excellence in all his endeavors and whose primary concern was always the fair and impartial administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, his colleagues knew him as a clear thinker and hard worker, as a man whose strong convictions were supported by meticulous research and careful consideration, and as an equitable, impartial leader whose decisions were governed by the rules of honesty and fair play; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin's leadership and guidance were instrumental to many civic and professional organizations, including the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Boys Club of Augusta, and the Voter Education Project, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin leaves behind many who will cherish his memory and legacy, including his loving wife, Judith; his son and daughter-in-law, Brinkley and Candace; and his grandsons, Bryson and Myles; and

WHEREAS, an intelligent and compassionate man, Judge Ruffin will long be remembered for his love family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and jurist will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of this trusted and enduring public figure, a principled statesman and strong defender of the law with a sharp legal mind and a passion for justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body join to honor the life and achievements of the Honorable John H.

Ruffin, Jr., express their deepest regret at his passing, and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable John H. Ruffin, Jr.

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