

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 72

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed jurist, a trusted mentor,
2 and a true friend drew to a close with the passing of U.S. District
3 Judge Edward Huggins Johnstone of Louisville, Kentucky, on June 26,
4 2013, at the age of 91; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of William and Katherine Johnstone, Ed
6 Johnstone was born on April 26, 1922, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, while
7 his parents were in the country for agricultural business; he grew
8 up in Paducah and graduated from Lafayette High School in
9 Lexington, where he enrolled at the University of Kentucky; soon
10 into his undergraduate career, he was called into combat during
11 World War II; he went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge, and for
12 his courageous efforts, he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Silver
13 Star; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning to Lexington and the university, he
15 completed his bachelor's degree and subsequently earned his juris
16 doctorate; during this time, he exchanged wedding vows with the
17 former Katherine Guion, with whom he shared in the joy of raising
18 four children, Anne, Bill, Mary, and Fraser; together, the two
19 moved to western Kentucky in 1949 and settled in Princeton, where
20 Mr. Johnstone would practice law for more than a quarter-century;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In 1976, he was appointed judge of the 56th Judicial
23 Circuit, encompassing a four-county area; he spent only a year in
24 that post when, in 1977, he was selected to become U.S. District

1 Judge for the Western District of Kentucky in Paducah; and

2 WHEREAS, In his 30 years on the bench, Judge Johnstone
3 presided over a number of high-profile court cases, including one
4 concerning the treatment of the incarcerated; during that case, he
5 visited several penitentiaries unannounced in order to personally
6 assess their conditions; a local newspaper reported on one visit,
7 in which he climbed through a hole in a cell's wall undeterred by
8 the pool of ankle-deep raw sewage on the other side, a feat of
9 boldness that drew applause from the inmates; his ruling ultimately
10 set a standard for prisoner class action litigation and led to
11 sweeping reforms of the state prison system; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Johnstone believed that all persons were
13 entitled to dignity and showed the same respect for everyone who
14 entered his courtroom; highly regarded for his integrity and
15 evenhandedness, he remained humble and self-effacing, allowing his
16 actions to speak for his character; over the years, he also went out
17 of his way to offer friendship and guidance to other individuals in
18 the legal profession; and

19 WHEREAS, His tireless work ethic earned him the distinction
20 of closing more criminal cases than any other judge in his district,
21 a record he maintained even after taking senior status in 1993; he
22 gave up the criminal docket in 2006 because of an increasing hearing
23 loss, but continued to handle social security disability appeals
24 for another five years; and

25 WHEREAS, Throughout a truly exemplary career, Judge Ed
26 Johnstone contributed immeasurably to his fellow citizens and to
27 his peers in the field of law, and he leaves behind a legacy of

1 compassion, wisdom, and understanding that will never be forgotten;
2 now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
4 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
5 Edward Huggins Johnstone and extend sincere sympathy to the members
6 of his family: to his wife, Katherine Guion Johnstone; to his
7 sister, Katherine Elliott; to his brother, Robert Johnstone; to his
8 children, Anne Dill and her husband, Gerry, Bill Johnstone and his
9 wife, Karen Newman, Mary Pepper Woolwine and her husband, George,
10 and Fraser Johnstone and his wife, Tammy; to his grandchildren, Jed
11 English, Morgan Newman Armstrong, Guion Johnstone, Will English,
12 Conrad Newman, Chlodys Johnstone, and Stuart Dill; to his
13 great-grandchildren, Sara Jo and Aubrey Kathryn Armstrong; and to
14 his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
18 Honorable Edward Huggins Johnstone.