



Judge Gardner Foster Goodwyn, Jr.

April 27, 1914 - February 24, 2015

Judge Gardner Foster Goodwyn, Jr. died on February 24, 2015 at the age of 100. He was born to Judge Gardner Foster Goodwyn, Sr. and Lora Williams Goodwyn in Bessemer, Alabama on April 27th, 1914. He was a member of a pioneer Montgomery family and the Great Great Grandson of United States President John Tyler.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Col. Marvin Williams Goodwyn; and his son, Gardner Foster Goodwyn, III.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margaret Williams Goodwyn; his daughter, Priscilla Anderson (Robert); his son, Tyler Williams Goodwyn (Jeanie); his grandson, Cooper Anderson; and, his nephew, M. Williams Goodwyn (Maura).

After graduating from Bessemer High School, he attended Virginia Military Institute for two years. He received his undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Alabama and completed post graduate work at Harvard Law School. At the University of Alabama he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

After graduating from law school in 1938, he practiced law in Bessemer until he enlisted in the Army of the United States in 1941. He served 4 ½ years, 2 ½ years overseas in the North African and Italian campaigns in an automatic weapons battalion of the anti aircraft artillery. He received four battle stars, Bronze Arrowhead for assault landing at Salerno, and the Presidential Unit Citation. During Allied occupation, after fighting ended, he was appointed

Judge of the Allied Government Court over Civilian Population, at Massa, Italy, and later to the Appellate Court in Rome. He was honorably discharged in March, 1946 as a Lt. Colonel.

He then spent 4 ½ years as an Assistant Attorney General of Alabama in trial and appellate work in various counties throughout the state and before the Alabama Supreme Court. In 1950 he was appointed by Governor Folsom to a circuit judgeship in the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Division, Jefferson County. He served until he retired in 1981.

Judge Goodwyn was a fair and impartial jurist and a respected politician. In his 31 years on the bench his decisions affected the lives of countless citizens and he was involved in many high profile political fights. One of the most publicized events occurred in the 1960's when an alleged Cosa Nostra gunman from New York and the District Attorney in the Bessemer Division of Jefferson County were indicted for conspiracy to kill Judge Goodwyn. It was alleged that the plot arose after Judge Goodwyn accused the District Attorney of corruption.

Scouting was his passion for many years. He was an Eagle Scout and as an adult leader he received the Silver Beaver Award. He also served as chairman of the Bessemer District of Boy Scouts, the District's "Together Plan" and the Charter Presentation Team.

Judge Goodwyn had been a member of numerous social, civic, political and legal organizations, including: Poinsettia Club; The Club; Kiwanis; American Legion; Elks; Masons; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Alabama Democratic Party; and, the American, Alabama, Birmingham and Bessemer Bar Associations. He had been a board member of the Red Cross, Bessemer YMCA, Montevallo College, and Bessemer Technical College. He was also a member of the First Christian Church of Bessemer, where he served as Elder, Trustee, and Sunday School Teacher.

Judge Goodwyn was a Southern gentleman who devoted his life to serving God, his family, the State of Alabama, and the United States of America. He believed that courage and character are the most essential assets for success

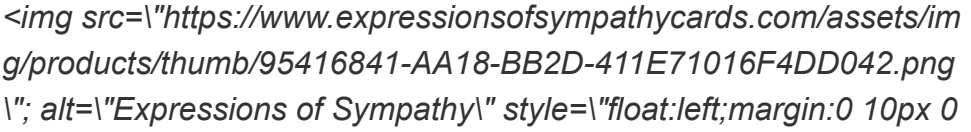
in the battle of life and that success is measured by the amount of good we do.

His family asks that in lieu of flowers you consider making a donation to a charity of your choice. They also wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to Brandi Cole for her devotion to Judge Goodwyn's care.

Graveside services for Judge Goodwyn will be Friday, February 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Elmwood Cemetery. Bro. Henry Hobson will be officiating. The family will receive friends Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

SH

“  Steve Hill has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

Steve Hill - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

MJ

“ Dear Goodwyn family, on behalf of the Johnson family, I express our deepest condolences and sympathies on Judge's passing. My most sincere apologies that we were not in attendance, but we were not aware until yesterday. Judge was a true gentleman and did great service for his community and country. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. \r\n\r\nMost cordial regards and sympathies,\r\n\r\nMichael Johnson

Michael Johnson - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

TS

“ Dear Tyler,\r\n\r\nMy deepest condolences for the loss of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful legacy he leaves behind in each of you.\r\n\r\nWith deepest sympathy,\r\n\r\nTracy Hodges Slaughter

Tracy H. Slaughter - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JG

“ Judge Goodwin was one of the finest man and juror in Alabama. My father, Joe Guyton had great respect for Judge Goodwin. He and his family were one of the most outstanding citizens of Bessemer, Alabama. \r\nThe Judge will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family. May God be with them in our loss.

Jack N. Guyton - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JG

“ Your husband and father was a great and wonderful man. \r\nHe was a giant to the city of Bessemer, Al.\r\nIt was a blessing to have known you all.\r\nHe will be missed.\r\n\r\n\r\n\r\nThank you,\r\n\r\n\r\nJack N. Guyton\r\n\r\njackguyton360@yahoo.com

Jack N. Guyton - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JG

“ Your husband and father was a great and wonderful man. He was a giant to the city of Bessemer, Al. It was a blessing to have known you all. He will be missed.
Thank you,
Jack N. Guyton jackguyton360@yahoo.com

Jack N. Guyton - March 06, 2015 at 10:31 AM

JG

“ Judge Goodwin was one of the finest man and juror in Alabama. My father, Joe Guyton had great respect for Judge Goodwin. He and his family were one of the most outstanding citizens of Bessemer, Alabama. The Judge will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family. May God be with them in our loss.

Jack N. Guyton - March 05, 2015 at 04:28 PM

TS

“ Dear Tyler,
My deepest condolences for the loss of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful legacy he leaves behind in each of you.
With deepest sympathy,
Tracy Hodges Slaughter

Tracy H. Slaughter - March 05, 2015 at 09:07 AM

MJ

“ Dear Goodwyn family, on behalf of the Johnson family, I express our deepest condolences and sympathies on Judge's passing. My most sincere apologies that we were not in attendance, but we were not aware until yesterday. Judge was a true gentleman and did great service for his community and country. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.
Most cordial regards and sympathies,
Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson - March 01, 2015 at 09:15 PM

SH

“ Steve Hill has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

Steve Hill - February 28, 2015 at 09:10 AM

JS

“ So sorry to hear of My great Friend Judge Goodwyn passing. Over the years i had many awesome times in the field with Judge Goodwyn, Judge Russel McKelroy, Atty. Adml. Lee Bains. An many other Fantastic true Americans Judges an Attorney's like them. Rest in peace with God, Jesus. An all your angels in Heaven. You will be missed.

John Wm. Whitten Sr. - February 27, 2015 at 04:16 PM

WJ

“ May the Lord bless those who are still here and may they since His presence during this time of loss.

William Goodwyn Fowler, Jr. - February 27, 2015 at 09:42 AM

CY

“ With deepest sympathies to the family on their loss.

Chuck Yates - February 26, 2015 at 05:33 PM

BA

“ *My heart goes out to Tyler and his family at this sorrowful time. I will always remember him.* ”

Brian Allison - February 26, 2015 at 03:08 PM