

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 316

Honoring Senior Judge Daniel H. Thomas of the United States District
Court for the Southern District of Alabama.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring Senior Judge Daniel H. Thomas of the United
States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama.

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas devoted his life to the dedicated
and principled service of his country, his State, and his
community;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas, a native of Prattville, Alabama,
was born August 25, 1906, to Judge C.E. Thomas and
Augusta Pratt.

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas obtained his law degree from the
University of Alabama in 1928, where his uncle, Daniel
H. Pratt, served as President pro tem of the Board of
Trustees of the University;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas, having served his country with
distinction for 3 years as a Navy Lieutenant during

World War II, returned to Mobile, Alabama and continued in the practice of law with Mr. Joseph C. Lyons and Sam Pipes in the law firm of Lyons, Thomas and Pipes until he was elevated to the Federal bench;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas was appointed a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama by President Truman in 1951, joining in distinguished judicial service his father, C.E. Thomas, who was a probate judge of Augusta County, Alabama, his uncle, William Thomas, who served the State of Alabama as a Supreme Court Justice, and his uncle, J. Render Thomas, who served many years as the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Alabama;

Whereas 49 years of judicial service made Judge Thomas one of the longest serving Federal judges in American history;

Whereas the years of distinguished judicial service by Judge Thomas were characterized by unflinching integrity and unquestioned legal ability;

Whereas in a time of great political and social turmoil, Judge Thomas inspired continued respect for the rule of law established under the Constitution of the United States, and for the propositions that “all men are created equal” and deserve “equal protection of the laws” by faithfully adhering to the precedents of the United States Supreme Court, even when such actions were not popular;

Whereas the depth of legal scholarship exhibited by Judge Thomas led him to become one of the most respected experts in the nation in the important field of Admiralty Law;

Whereas the reach of service by Judge Thomas to his country extended beyond his courtroom to his community through his active leadership as a founding trustee of the Ashland Place Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama, and to America's youth through his efforts in support of the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas Judge Thomas, a man who enjoyed the outdoors, being an accomplished fisherman and quail hunter, exhibited great common sense, had a vibrant sense of humor, and was extremely friendly and thoughtful of others, thereby truly fitting the description of a true "southern gentleman";

Whereas Judge Thomas truly was a great judge whose life was the law, and who was loved and respected by members of the bar and community to a degree seldom reached and never surpassed;

Whereas Judge Thomas passed away at his home in Mobile, Alabama, on Thursday, April 13, 2000;

Whereas the members of the Senate extend our deepest sympathies to the wife of Judge Thomas, Catherine Miller Thomas, his 2 sons, Daniel H. Thomas, Jr. and Merrill P. Thomas, other family members, and a host of friends that he had across the country; and

Whereas in the example of Judge Daniel H. Thomas, the American people have an enduring symbol of moral courage, judicial restraint, and public service: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Senate honors the memory of
- 2 Judge Daniel H. Thomas for his exemplary service to his
- 3 country; and

1 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of the de-
3 ceased.

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