



Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding

April 4, 1945 - December 10, 2014

The Honorable Judge O.C. “Hobby” Spaulding, 69, of Teays Valley died December 10, 2014 after a courageous battle with ALS.

Born April 4, 1945 in Fairmont, Hobby was the son of the late Orville and Katherine Spaulding of Huntington, WV. A graduate of Huntington East High School, University of Kentucky and WVU Law School in 1973, Spaulding began his private practice in Hurricane and served the local community until he became Putnam County’s Assistant Prosecutor and ultimately the Prosecuting Attorney serving from 1987-1992. In 1992, he was elected 29th Judicial Circuit Court Judge and was re-elected in both 2000 and 2008. During judicial campaigns, he refused to accept campaign contributions to avoid even the slightest appearance of conflicts of interest.

During that time he also served two legislative commissions as a West Virginia Supreme Court appointee. He was called upon to regularly to teach continuing legal education classes for fellow judges as well as the WVU College of Law, WV Public Defenders and the WV Prosecuting Attorneys Association. The State Supreme Court expressed confidence in Spaulding by appointing him to sit numerous times as a temporary Supreme Court Justice when a Justice could not serve for a particular reason. Judge Spaulding received the Children’s Justice Task Force’s Extra Mile Award and he received outstanding contribution awards from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association

and the Public Defenders Corporation. He also served as Vice-President and President-elect of the WV Judicial Association. For his dedicated work with children, the Putnam County Youth Reporting Center has been named in his honor. There, troubled youth can continue to receive education in addition to receiving group therapy, substance abuse counseling and anger management.

Spaulding was honored with the 2014 WVU College of Law Justitia Officium Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions and service to the legal profession and is the highest honor the WVU College of Law bestows.

Hobby was a strong supporter and citizen of Putnam County and West Virginia believing in the principles that government was meant to serve all the people. He supported community projects and served on numerous boards. He served during the time Putnam County doubled in population, as people from Kanawha and Cabell counties joined longtime residents in what had been a tranquil area.

Is there a community project greater than establishing a court system that earned Judge Spaulding a statewide reputation for his integrity, knowledge and competence as a judge?

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hobby Spaulding dedicated his life to providing justice. He was a brilliant, hard working and above all kind man. He did not have any children and married his life-long sweetheart later in life. Therefore, his focus and devotion has been to the people of Putnam County. Judge Spaulding’s life and his legacy in seeking fairness and justice will not be forgotten, will not be replaced.

Judge Spaulding is survived by his loving wife, Jane Hustead, his cousin, Bob Connor of Morgantown and close personal friends, who will dearly cherish his memory forever.

The memorial service will begin promptly at 4pm Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane which will be followed by a reception at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club. All guests are invited to attend.

In keeping with his generosity, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your local food bank or to the ALS Association, Gift Processing Center, PO Box 6051, Albert Lea, MN 56007 (alsa.org/donate).

You may visit www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com to share sympathies with Jane.

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve Judge Spaulding.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Reception

DEC 17. 5:30 PM (ET)

Sleepy Hollow Golf Club
180 Sleepy Hollow Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526

Tribute Wall



“ *Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I was thinking of you today. I reread all the memories left here about you today. I was so honored to be your assistant/secretary for so many years. You were such a great man and judge. Will continue to miss you for a long, long time.*

Dana Lynn Walters - June 25, 2022 at 08:15 PM



“ *You are still missed.....*

Dana - March 20, 2017 at 04:47 PM



“ *Thank you for finalizing my adoption. I miss u so much.*

kista - May 12, 2016 at 07:22 AM



“ *Lee Connor lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Lee Connor - December 20, 2014 at 09:21 AM

LC

I was also first cousin to Hobby. We were all very proud of his accomplishments and of him as a person. He will be greatly missed but will never leave our hearts.

Lee Connor - December 20, 2014 at 09:24 AM

SC

“ *It was an honor to know Hobby. May he rest in peace. Sending our condolences and sincere sympathy to Janie, his family and close friends*

Skip & Lexa Carr

Stanley (Skip) Carr - December 17, 2014 at 09:27 PM

SS

“ *So Sorry for your loss. I meet Hobby many years ago when he was my lawyer. He was a very honest person. I know he will be missed by many.*

Sylvia Smith

Sylvia Smith - December 17, 2014 at 03:05 PM

JJ

“ *I would like to have been at the memorial service for Hobby this afternoon, but I am in a criminal jury trial and will be unable to attend. I share in your loss of a good friend and colleague. In Hobby's memory, I have made a donation to the ALS Association. God bless you and keep you safe during this very trying time.*

- Judge Paul M. Blake, Jr.

Judge Paul M. Blake, Jr. - December 17, 2014 at 08:15 AM

NW

“ *In memory of a great Judge and person. My husband and I worked with the Judge for many years at the courthouse. He was a fair and honest with every one. Don worked many years with him. He will be missed by all that knew him. Prayers for the family.*



Nina Wright - December 16, 2014 at 09:01 PM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding.*



December 16, 2014 at 08:17 AM

TS

“ To the family and friends of Judge Spaulding -

Having known J. Spaulding professionally from his time as Prosecuting Attorney until the present, I feel that I am among those qualified to speak to his attributes as a lawyer, a jurist and as a man. As a lawyer, J. Spaulding was at the top of his profession - both ethically and professionally. As a judge, he was if not the best trial judge I ever appeared in before, he was in the top three - and I've appeared in front of literally hundreds of judges in many state and federal courts. And as a man, Hobby had no peers. He always, and I repeat, always did the right thing.

When I saw the announcement for the memorial service and it said that it would begin "promptly at 4:00", I laughed quietly and thought Judge Spaulding must have written that. Because when he said that a proceeding would begin at a given time, he meant it. He would be ready and fully versed on whatever the issues would be, and you had better be there and ready, too. However, J. Spaulding had one trait that few judges have and that is he could correct a lawyer in such a way as you never felt belittled or patronized. He made his points clearly and with a smile on his face. I will miss him both on the bench and personally.

Wherever the best of us go, Hobby Spaulding will be there waiting on those good enough to merit rest in the same venue.

Trigg Salsbery - December 16, 2014 at 08:11 AM

EB

“ *In more than 30 years as a reporter in West Virginia and previously in Oregon, I met no public official who merited greater esteem than Judge Spaulding. He was fair but firm, compassionate and considerate, and always prepared when he took the bench. He answered every question about a case, and I had many, with patience.*

Evadna Bartlett - December 16, 2014 at 05:28 AM

SB

“ *Susan Breece lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Susan Breece - December 16, 2014 at 12:02 AM

SM

“ *While I knew the unrelenting nature of the Judge's illness, I was saddened to read of the circumstances of his passing. However, his decision deserves our respect, and he certainly still has mine! His well considered, caring actions to so many, will never be forgotten, by anyone who crossed his path. It was difficult for me to try to explain his impact, to a friend of mine here in the northeast where I now live. I attended the first Juvenile Justice Conference held in West Virginia. At the time, I supervised Youth Services in Putnam County, among others. The final speaker at the conference, cited Judge Spaulding as an exemplary model of how to best serve troubled youth in West Virginia! All the best wishes to the Judge's life partner, and those close to him during this difficult time.*

Susan Mann - December 15, 2014 at 11:48 PM

AC

“ *Amy Crossan lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Amy Crossan - December 15, 2014 at 01:31 PM

PC

“ *Hobby is my first cousin, so I have known him all of my life. Even as a child, I remember his leadership when all of the cousins were together at a family farm where we gathered for holidays. Everyone paid attention to Hobby. As we grew older, Hobby still "held court" in all of the family discussions at the farm, with all of the adults listening intently to his remarkable ability to present both sides of anything controversial. Growing up as an only child, he both received a great deal of love and an abundance of attention from his parents, and also returned that love and attention to them in their later years. Always a leader, he was one to jump out front and get elected to most anything he wanted. I remember when he was running for an office at Hunting East High School, his campaign slogan was "This Hobby Doesn't Horse Around". That was so fitting for my cousin who I will never forget.*

Price Connor - December 15, 2014 at 07:09 AM

AV

“ *Allen Vanatter lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Allen Vanatter - December 14, 2014 at 07:51 PM

CB

“ I knew Hobby as a young man at the University of Kentucky. I am so proud of the success he attained, in the law, and as a human being. I can imagine no better legacy than the comments of the people on this page. God Speed, Hobby. You will be missed more than you know.

Carroll Baldwin Louisville, KY.

Carroll Baldwin - December 14, 2014 at 02:39 PM

JD

“ I have so many memories of Hobby from our high school days to our 50th high school reunion last year (where he stole the show).

There never was a day when Hobby wasn't exceptional, even among the exceptional. He has achieved the highest possible distinction -- an enduring legacy as a good, kind and caring man who was universally beloved.

Joe Drummond - December 14, 2014 at 07:40 AM

LS

“ Lisa Smith lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



Lisa smith - December 14, 2014 at 04:33 AM

VF

“ *Van Pelt Family lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Van Pelt Family - December 13, 2014 at 11:47 PM

CB

“ *My friend and my High School classmate for 50 years. Always there for everyone, generous beyond measure, loved his high school , HEHS Class of '63. We will all miss him. Condolences to our friend and Hobby's wife, Janie. We love you.*

Carolyn Barr

Carolyn Barr - December 13, 2014 at 11:36 PM

PR

“ *Judge Spaulding, Hobby, will live forever through the caring he showed through kind acts and understanding both on and off the bench. He was a remarkable and most memorable human being who challenges us all to live better, fuller lives.*



Peggy Rash - December 13, 2014 at 07:26 PM

PB

“ *Pamela Bradford lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Pamela Bradford - December 13, 2014 at 11:40 AM



“ Janet Williamson lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



Janet Williamson - December 13, 2014 at 11:14 AM



“ Stacy Crockett Cooper lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



Stacy Crockett Cooper - December 13, 2014 at 09:46 AM



“ Terra lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



Terra - December 13, 2014 at 08:29 AM



“ Lisa And Charles Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



Lisa and Charles Dorsey - December 12, 2014 at 09:43 PM

MB

“ We sold and installed hardwood flooring for Judge Spaulding earlier this year. We were talking about Steely Dan, how many times he'd seen them and how much we both loved their music. He left our store that day and came back in about 15 minutes. He gave me a Steely Dan t-shirt and poster he had bought at a concert. I was so touched that he went right home and bought those back to me. I will never forget that.



Melody Bias

Melody Bias - December 12, 2014 at 08:36 PM

MF

Judge Spaulding helped me out when he was a prosecutor for the state. It was in a child's defense. He didn't let money or politics play any part in what was best for the child. What a difference that made in that child's life. I can't say what may have happened had he chose to go along with the politics or the popular gang. He chose the welfare of the child and protecting the innocent involved. It is with great sadness for such a loss to our community and much appreciation for a very caring and honest humanitarian. May God comfort his family and friends. Sometime we never know how one individuals actions can change a persons life. Thank you God for special people that you have placed in our paths. This man left foot print on a lot of people's hearts.
Melanie Fewell

Melanie Fewell - December 13, 2014 at 01:42 PM

PE

“ Phyllis Call And Frank Esterly lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



phyllis call and frank esterly - December 12, 2014 at 07:11 PM

SM

“ *Sherry Morrison lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Sherry Morrison - December 12, 2014 at 04:53 PM

GB

“ *Greg Barker lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



Greg Barker - December 12, 2014 at 02:19 PM

GB

One Great and fine Man , a true Gentleman !!

Greg Barker - December 12, 2014 at 02:21 PM

BP

“ *BILL PHELPS lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding*



BILL PHELPS - December 12, 2014 at 10:19 AM

CB

“ I had the privilege of serving on a fairly high profile case several years back. Big time lawyers from out of state went back and forth on both sides. O.C. would bring them right back down to earth whenever they got too wired up. Needless to say Judge Spaulding was the commader of his court room. I highly respected him and my deepest sympathys to his family and loved ones. God Bless

Chris Beckett - December 12, 2014 at 03:53 AM

MH

“ Judge Spaulding was the judge on our son's adoption case. He was so kind and caring with us. I'm sure many other adoptive families would say the same. He spoke with authority, but also with a kind heart! We are forever thankful for him. May his family find peace and comfort remembering the LIFE he lived!

Maria Hitchcock - December 11, 2014 at 07:05 PM

BW

“ Bonnie Workman lit a candle in memory of Hon. Judge O.C. Spaulding



bonnie workman - December 11, 2014 at 06:20 PM