



Quarterly

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Supreme Court Building is Designated a National Landmark

As part of National Historic Preservation Week, the Supreme Court Building was officially designated an historic landmark by Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior, on May 12, 1987, joining more than 1,700 places which have previously been designated as historic landmarks. The theme for this year's Preservation Week was "Landmarks of Democracy," to coordinate with the request of the Bicentennial Commission that 1987 be "dedicated to the memory of the Founders and the document they drafted in Philadelphia."

A ceremony commemorating the event was held in the East Conference Room. Participants included Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the members of the Supreme Court,

Retired Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, Secretary Hodel and invited guests.

In his remarks, Mr. Hodel told the audience that the primary purpose of the historic landmark law is to "mark and set aside for permanent honor and protection . . . those buildings and places which have unusual historic significance to this Nation." Secretary Hodel further stated that there are several goals associated with the designation of a landmark. "One of those statutory objectives is to assure the physical preservation of those special places associated with people or events which have made a difference in the land in which we live. I have every confidence that this and succeeding memberships of the Supreme Court, and its sister branches of government, will see to it that this magnificent building is quite adequately maintained and preserved for generations to come."

Secretary Hodel also noted that the Supreme Court Building had already filled another objective of the preservation program — that of becoming a symbol of national significance. "This structure needs no special designations because, in the hearts and minds of most Americans, it already is a shrine. Just walk the imposing corridors of this building. Enter the great courtroom itself. You will see what I mean . . . Those who come here do so with an almost reverential silence, for they know the special role played by the institution which is housed here."

"Why, then, have we chosen to designate this building a National Historic Landmark? And why now? Because, within these marble walls sits more than the highest of the courts of the land, the court beyond which there is no judicial appeal. Here dwells the ultimate institutional protection for the Constitution of the United States, whose bicentennial we celebrate this year. I, for one, am glad this Nation is going out of its way to celebrate the 200th birthday of the Constitution. It is fitting and proper that, now as a part of that celebration this generation of Americans marks symbolically for the ages our recognition of the importance of the United States Supreme Court to our constitutional form of government."

The Secretary remarked that in commemorating the Supreme Court building, we are, of course, also honoring the Constitution which called for its creation. He pointed out that the delegates to the convention in Philadelphia were very mindful of their responsibility to their fellow citizens and to the

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The Supreme Court Building has often been referred to as Chief Justice Taft's "brain child," as he was its most ardent proponent.

Powell Resigns from Supreme Court

It's not every day, or for that matter, even every year that a new Justice is named to the Supreme Court. In fact, given the current population of the United States and the frequency of Court appointments in this century, the average American's odds of joining the Court in any given year are less than one in two hundred and forty million.

Accordingly, when Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. compared being named to the Supreme Court to "being struck by lightning" his assessment was one of characteristic modesty.

When the Senate voted to confirm his nomination on December 6, 1971, Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. received a welcoming 89 to 1 approval. An appointee of President Nixon, Justice Powell joined the Supreme Court the following January at the age of sixty-four, replacing retired Justice Hugo Black. On June 26, 1987, the last day of the Court's 1986 Term, Justice Powell retired from the High Bench bringing to a close a distinguished tenure of over 15 years.

The fact that his nomination was confirmed without event in 1971, an era in which the Senate was wracked by partisan debate, says much about Justice Powell. His legal ability and business acumen helped to establish his national reputation as a highly respected member of the legal community by the time of his appointment.

A native of the Virginia Tidewater region, Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr. was born in Suffolk on September 19, 1907. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Virginia's Washington and Lee University in 1929 where he served as student body president. He went on to complete the three year course of study for his LL.B. at that University's law school in just two years, and graduated at the head of his class. Justice Powell took brief leave of his native soil in 1932 to pursue an LL.M. at Harvard Law School where he studied under Professor Felix Frankfurter (later Justice Frankfurter).

Following his studies at Harvard, Justice Powell returned to Virginia and joined a prestigious Richmond law firm in which he was made partner in 1937. World War II interrupted his legal career for nearly three years when Justice Powell served as an Air Force Intelligence Officer in North Africa. During this time he rose from First Lieutenant to the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

After the war, Justice Powell resumed his legal practice and returned to Hunton, Williams, Gay, Powell & Gibson, where he remained until his appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States. Powell was an extremely successful corporate lawyer, becoming a senior partner, a millionaire, and an elected director of eleven major corporations. He earned a considerable reputation in Virginia by representing such well-known corporate clients as the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the Prudential Insurance Company of America and the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

In addition to his professional activities, Justice Powell was involved in educational and community organizations, serving as president of the Richmond Family Services Society, Chairman of the Richmond School Board and as President of the Virginia State Board of Education. As chairman of the school board from 1952-1961, Powell urged a moderate course in



Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. resigned from the Court on the last day of the 1986 Term.

complying with *Brown v. Board of Education* and advocated keeping the schools open despite considerable pressure from those opposed to desegregation.

Justice Powell was also active in professional associations prior to his appointment to the Court. From 1964 to 1965, Powell served as president of the American Bar Association, a position that offered a national forum in which to express his views. He strongly denounced civil disobedience and other forms of civil protest and put forward his view that many social ills were caused by parental permissiveness. Powell joined President Johnson's National Commission on Law Enforcement in 1966 and sided with the minority that was critical of Supreme Court decisions upholding the right of criminals to remain silent. From 1968-1970, Powell served as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and as President of the American Bar Foundation from 1969 until his nomination to the Court in 1971.

After the retirement of Justice Black, President Nixon sought to fill the vacancy with one who would be less responsive to the arguments of criminal defendants and more responsive to the reasoning of law enforcement officers. President Nixon wanted his nominee to be a conservative and adhere to strict constructionist judicial philosophy. Lewis F. Powell, the only Democrat to be nominated for appointment to the Supreme Court by President Nixon, satisfied all his criteria.

The nomination proceedings were without controversy. Although not then publicly reporting their investigations, the

American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously endorsed Powell, stating: "Mr. Powell meets high standards of professional competency, judicial temperament and integrity. He is the best person available. . . ." The nomination was easily confirmed by the Senate, and Justice Powell took his seat on the bench January 7, 1972.

Justice Powell's work on the Court, of course, reflects his training as a lawyer. His characteristic approach has been to focus on the narrow facts of each case, to identify the competing interests, and, whenever possible, to create a middle of the road solution that satisfied the central concerns of each party. Only when there is irrevocable conflict does he balance one set of interests against the other and determine which should take precedence. His votes have often been pivotal to the decisions of the Court.

During his years on the Court Justice Powell made many important contributions. Perhaps one of the most noteworthy, was his plan to expedite the workload of the Court by pooling

the efforts of the Justices' law clerks. By the early 70s the growing caseload made the screening of cases a serious problem. Under the old system, each Justice's law clerks researched and wrote memoranda on appeals and petitions for writs of certiorari filed. Justice Powell suggested the creation of a "cert. pool," to divide the caseload between law clerks and eliminate duplication of effort. This idea was implemented, with Justices participating on a voluntary basis. Justice Powell was also one of the first proponents of the use of word processing and computer equipment in the Court.

Justice Powell has earned a reputation for having a gifted legal mind and an ability to work well with his fellow Justices and other associates. According to the statistics, during his service on the Burger court he disagreed less with his associates when voting on case selection than any other member of the Court. He also has a reputation as an indefatigable worker and a southern gentleman. The impact of Justice Powell will continue to be felt in the Supreme Court for many years.

Court Vacancy Is Focus of National Attention

On July 2, 1987, President Reagan announced his intention to nominate Robert H. Bork, a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States created by the retirement of Justice Lewis F. Powell on June 26.

Judge Bork has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since his appointment by President Reagan on February 9, 1982. Justice Antonin Scalia served with Judge Bork on the same Court until his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1986.

For the majority of his career, Judge Bork was a professor of constitutional and public law at Yale spanning the years 1962-1982. Prior to his academic career, Bork worked for seven years in Chicago with the firm of Kirkland and Ellis as an antitrust lawyer. He left his law practice to pursue an academic career, explaining that he wanted to do "something more intellectually challenging in the sense of large ideas." His career as an academic was interrupted to serve as Solicitor General of the United States from 1973-1977, and as Acting Attorney General from 1973-1974.

Over three months after the nomination was announced on July 7, 1987, and following a protracted debate over the

nomination, the Senate voted on October 22, 1987 to reject Judge Bork's appointment 42-58.

Two weeks after the Senate denied the appointment of Judge Bork, President Reagan held a press conference where he announced his intention to nominate Judge Douglas Ginsburg, also serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. Like Judge Bork, Judge Ginsburg graduated from the University of Chicago Law School and had been a professor of law. Ginsburg taught at the Harvard Law School prior to his career in the government. During his government service, Ginsburg served as chief of regulatory policy at the White House's Office of Management and Budget and as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division.

At the age of 41, Ginsburg was unusually young for nomination to the Supreme Court although several other individuals have received appointment at an earlier age. William O. Douglas was 40 years old at the time of his appointment, Bushrod Washington was 36, and William Johnson and Joseph Story were each 32 years old. After unfavorable publicity came about, Judge Ginsburg withdrew his name from consideration on November 14, 1987.

On November 30, 1987, President Reagan nominated Anthony M. Kennedy, a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 1975, to fill the vacancy.

Judge Kennedy, aged 51, is a graduate of Stanford University, receiving a B.A. in 1958, and of Harvard Law School, receiving an LL.B. degree in 1961. He also attended the London School of Economics. He served on the Judicial Conference Advisory Panel on Financial Disclosure Reports and Judicial Activities, and the Committee on Pacific Territories.

Judge Kennedy's name was sent by the White House to the Secretary of the Senate, the first step in the official nomination process. The Secretary of the Senate then referred the nomination to the Judiciary Committee where hearings have been scheduled to start on December 14, 1987.

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Editor Alice L. O'Donnell
Managing Editor Kathleen Shurtleff

Society's Twelfth Annual Meeting Caps a Year of Success

A standing-room-only assemblage gathered in the restored Supreme Court Chamber in the U.S. Capitol Building to hear Judge Kenneth W. Starr, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, deliver this year's Annual Lecture. The lecture marked the first event of a day-long program, and for the first time in the history of the Society, the event was videotaped by CSPAN network for nationwide broadcast enabling thousands of viewers to participate in the event.

Annual Meeting Committee Chairman, J. Roderick Heller, III, introduced Judge Starr. Judge Starr, in his introductory comments, said he viewed his subject as "one of the most intriguing issues in our system of government — the relationship between religion and religious activities and the instruments of government."

In his talk, Judge Starr traced the origins of the First Amendment, outlining Madison's various drafts and suggestions and the floor debate surrounding it. The full text of Judge Starr's lecture will appear in the 1987 *Yearbook*.

Following the lecture, a number of members chose to attend an informal reception at the Society's headquarters. Others attended a very popular tour of the Supreme Court building conducted each year by the knowledgeable staff of Court Curator Gail Galloway. The tour includes such private areas of the Supreme Court building as the Justices' Dining Room, the Library, the Ladies' Dining Room and other rooms not generally open to visitors.

Later that evening, the annual meeting of the membership was convened by the Society's President, Governor Linwood Holton. It opened on a sad note with the announcement that Mrs. Elizabeth Black, widow of Justice Hugo Black, had



Governor Linwood Holton resigned his Presidency after seven years of service to devote more time to his other commitments.

passed away the previous day. Mrs. Black was one of the Society's Founding Trustees and served as a member of the Executive Committee at the time of her death. Noting her loyal and unflagging support, the Governor commented, "Elizabeth will be sorely missed by all of us who knew her."

Turning to the business of the meeting, the Governor took the membership by surprise with the announcement of his resignation following seven years as the Society's President. He enumerated some of the Society's many achievements during his term of office and thanked those who helped to make his tenure a successful one, including his fellow Executive Committee Officers, the Trustees, the Society's staff, and the general membership. He noted in particular that he was very grateful to Executive Director Cornelius B. Kennedy, with whom he had worked closely since 1984, for his outstanding work on the Society's behalf during the last three years. Governor Holton then called upon the Society's Treasurer, Peter Knowles, to deliver the year's financial reports.

Mr. Knowles reviewed the Society's financial position at some length, noting in particular the growth of the Society's membership revenues and fund balances. He went on to compliment the outgoing President for his part in improving the Society's financial position in recent years.

Thanking Mr. Knowles, Governor Holton then called upon Mrs. Virginia Warren Daly, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, for nominations for election to the Board of Trustees. Nominated for reelection to three-year terms were:

Mr. Vincent C. Burke, Jr., Mrs. Lita Annenberg Hazen, Mr. Earl W. Kintner, Ambassador Sol Linowitz, Ambassador William P. Rogers and Mr. Justin A. Stanley. Nominated for election to their first three-year terms were Mr. William E. Jackson and Mr. Chesterfield Smith. The nominees were then elected by voice vote, following which Governor Holton called for adjournment of the Annual Membership Meeting and turned the podium over to the Society's Chairman, Ambassador Kenneth Rush who convened the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Ambassador Rush observed, in his opening remarks, that for the first time in seven years the Society's Trustees would be called upon to elect a new President. "This changing of the guard," said the Chairman, "gives us reason to reflect upon the Society's progress during the preceding seven years. And, upon reflection, I believe we owe a debt of gratitude to our outgoing President, Linwood Holton."

The Ambassador went on to recount some of the Society's outstanding achievements during Governor Holton's tenure, notably: the purchase of the Society's first headquarters building and the subsequent retirement of all loans on that building; publication of several editions of the *Yearbook* and *Quarterly*; publication of the *Index to Opinions*, the first volume of *The Documentary History of the Supreme Court*, the first edition under the Society's copyright of *Equal Justice Under Law* and an accompanying *Teacher's Guide*, the recently released *Illustrated History of the Supreme Court*, as well as many other books and brochures. Ambassador Rush also recounted some of the Society's many acquisitions during Governor Holton's tenure, including several busts and portraits of Justices, as well as various furnishings and historical memorabilia.

Ambassador Rush noted that the Society's successes in publications and acquisitions coincided with a dramatic



Chief Justice Rehnquist made a few informal remarks at the Annual Dinner, commenting it was encouraging to find that other people found his place of work as interesting as he did.

improvement in the Society's financial well-being during the last seven years with a significant increase in membership income, a reduction of liabilities, and most notably, growth in the Society's net worth from \$145,000 in 1981 to \$452,000 in 1986. Ambassador Rush concluded his comments on Governor Holton thanking the outgoing President for a "job well done" and extending to him "the immense gratitude of the Board of Trustees."

The Chairman then called upon Mrs. Daly to present the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of the Society's Executive Committee Officers. Justin A. Stanley, a prominent Chicago attorney and a former President of the American Bar Association was nominated to complete a two-year unexpired term as President. Alice L. O'Donnell was nominated for reelection to a three-year term as First Vice President. Nominated for reelection to three year terms as Vice Presidents were Messrs. Charles T. Duncan, Frank B. Gilbert and David Lloyd Kreeger. J. Roderick Heller, III was nominated for his first three-year term as Vice President. Virginia Warren Daly and Peter A. Knowles were nominated for reelection as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. All nominees were elected by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

The final events of the day were the Annual Reception and Dinner, held in the Court's East and West Conference Rooms and the Great Hall. During the reception guests were entertained by chamber music provided by the String Ensemble of the Army Band. Dinner was served in the Great Hall where the Chief Justice made a few informal remarks commenting that it was gratifying to find that other people were interested in the place where he and his colleagues work. After dinner, the Strolling Strings captivated the guests with their performance, bringing the evening to a happy conclusion.



Judge Kenneth Starr (left) was introduced to Society members by J. Roderick Heller, III, Annual Meeting Chairman.



Once again the Strolling Strings of the Army Band enchanted guests at the Annual Dinner.

In Memoriam to Elizabeth Seay Black

On Sunday, May 17, 1987 Elizabeth Seay Black, widow of Justice Hugo L. Black, died at Sibley Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Black was one of the founding members of the Society, and served as its first Secretary.

Elizabeth Seay Black was the daughter of Dr. Jim and Elma Atkins Seay. Dr. Seay attended Bellevue Medical School in New York and initially returned to his home in Lamar County, Alabama to join his father in the practice of medicine. Less than a year later, the Seays moved to Pratt City, a small mining community near Birmingham where all three of their children were born: Erskine, James and Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth was about three years old, the family moved to the Southside of Birmingham to an area which was then referred to as "Silk Stocking Row." Dr. Seay developed a successful practice and was a surgeon on the staffs of two hospitals when he suddenly died at the age of 41, just three days after Elizabeth's twelfth birthday. Elizabeth attended boarding school in Birmingham while her mother settled the estate.

Two years later, Mrs. Seay and Elizabeth moved to Tuscaloosa where Elizabeth's brother James was studying premedicine at the University of Alabama. Elizabeth's older brother, Erskine, was a cadet at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. While the Seays were living in Tuscaloosa, James introduced Elizabeth to one of his classmates, Fred DeMeritte, whom Elizabeth subsequently married. This marriage lasted 30 years, and produced one son, Fred DeMeritte, Jr.

Elizabeth's career included fifteen years as a deputy clerk in the office of William E. Davis, clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Alabama at Birmingham. While working there, she met Hugo Black, Jr., a young attorney. In February of 1956, Justice Black, then a widower, enlisted "little" Hugo's help in locating a new secretary to work in his chambers at the Supreme Court. He told Hugo, Jr. he wanted an Alabama woman to fill the job and Elizabeth Seay DeMeritte was recommended for the position.

On March 15, 1956, Elizabeth DeMeritte, described as "a still-youthful Birmingham grandmother and the sister of an admiral," began work as a secretary to Justice Hugo L. Black at the Supreme Court of the United States. One of Justice Black's clerks later said that she had been "installed by the Justice's matchmaking children with malice aforethought." Perhaps then it was not really a surprise when on September 11, 1957, Hugo L. Black, Sr. and Elizabeth Seay DeMeritte were married at Justice Black's residence in Alexandria. According to one biographer, Black's decision to marry Elizabeth was a decision "... where there was no dissent at all; in fact, many people wrote concurring opinions. It was truly a good thing that Elizabeth DeMeritte agreed to change her name to Mrs. Hugo Black."

Elizabeth was a devoted wife and companion to Justice Black. She described their relationship in her book *Mr. Justice and Mrs. Black* in the following words:

... For almost the first seventy years of his life, therefore, I did not know Hugo Black. For the next fifteen years of his life I was successively (and sometimes simultaneously) his secretary, his wife, and his unabashed hero-worshipper. ... we shared a lot of fun and a lot of love. I think Hugo drew



Office of the Curator, Supreme Court

Elizabeth Black had a bench inscribed with the words "Here lies a good man" placed by Hugo's grave.

from me the strength of his roots. The spark that flared between us almost at sight was our common background. I gave him back Alabama, which he was hungry for when I came on the scene. Hugo had missed the speech, the softened manners, the colloquialisms of his Southland.

Justice and Mrs. Black made their home in Alexandria in the historic home built in 1790 which the Justice had purchased in the 1930's. In his study which was lined with volume upon volume of his favorite works, Mrs. Black set up a desk and typewriter. There they worked together and independently. Frequently she assisted him in his labors by providing the lay person's point of view. He would often read draft opinions to her, asking for suggestions and improvements.

During these years, Elizabeth learned to play tennis at Justice Black's insistence. He was an avid player himself and they spent many happy hours together on the tennis courts. Mrs. Black's family duties included assisting her mother, Mrs. Seay who lived in the area. Elizabeth also undertook an ambitious reading program which included many of the works of the classical Greek authors which Justice Black loved and quoted. She also attended Court frequently to hear him read his opinions and to hear him during oral argument. They attended many official functions given by the Court and the President of the United States; she mingled with many of the powerful and famous individuals of Washington.

In the summer of 1971, Hugo L. Black, Sr. became ill. He was hospitalized in Bethesda Naval Hospital several times. In late August, due to his increasingly bad health, Black determined to

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Landmark (continued from page one)

generations that would follow them, and also very aware of their own inadequacies to create a perfect document. "As the delegates left Philadelphia and the ratification process began, one early supporter of the Constitution wrote: 'There is no spirit of arrogance in the new federal Constitution. When experience has taught us its mistakes, the people whom it preserves, absolutes all powerful, can reform and amend them.'"

Also pointed out by Secretary Hodel was that while amendments to the Constitution had been necessary, that the Founding Fathers had created a system which could encompass corrections and changes within the framework of the existing organization. "The ideas expressed in the original document about limited government, about checks and balances, and about federalism — the essential role of the states — have withstood the test of time. . . . Today we dedicate as a National Historic Landmark the Nation's premier symbol of an independent judiciary. In doing so, what we really are saying is how grateful we are for the wisdom, foresight, and sense of justice exhibited by our Founders."

Chief Justice Rehnquist responded for the Court to Secretary Hodel's speech noting that when the federal government moved from Philadelphia to Washington in 1800, no provision for housing the Supreme Court was made. Just before the commencement of the Court's February 1801 Term, this oversight was noted and "the planners found a room in the basement of the Capitol building, measuring about twenty-four



Office of the Curator, Supreme Court

Chief Justice Rehnquist, Retired Chief Justice Burger, and Secretary of the Interior Hodel sign the proclamation marking the building an official landmark.

feet by sixteen feet in which the Court could hold its sessions."

The Chief Justice noted that in the years between 1801 and 1819 the Court had to fend for itself in an effort to find adequate space. It was not until 1819 that the Court was provided more permanent quarters in what is now known as the restored Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol building, where it continued to conduct business until 1860. "In 1860, the Court moved to what is called the Old Senate Chamber in the Capitol building and was allotted the then spacious number of twelve rooms for its work and records. It met there until 1935, when the present 'marble palace' was first opened for business."

Chief Justice Rehnquist observed that the present Supreme Court building "deserves an award not only as an historic landmark but as one of the best buys in the history of procurement by the United States. Constructed of marble both from at home and abroad, richly appointed and fitted out, Congress originally authorized the sum of \$9,740,000 for the construction and equipment of the building. And to anyone familiar with the construction industry and its practices, the most surprising thing about the construction is that the final cost was nearly \$100,000 less than the authorized amount!"

In conclusion, the Chief Justice commented that the Court celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of the Court's occupancy of the building in 1985. "Now, today, we add . . . the designation of the building as a national historic landmark. We are proud of our building, proud of our institution and grateful to you for having participated in this ceremony."



Office of the Curator, Supreme Court

Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel dedicated the Supreme Court Building as the "premier symbol of an independent judiciary."

In Memoriam *(continued from page six)*

write a letter of resignation from the Court. It fell to Elizabeth to type the letter for his signature. He was admitted to the hospital on August 27. Mrs. Seay, Elizabeth's mother, who had been ill for some time, was hospitalized on September 15 where her illness was diagnosed as cancer. Justice Black decided to tender his resignation on September 17, 1971. A few days later, on September 25, Hugo L. Black, Sr. died.

Justice Black's funeral was held in the National Cathedral on September 28 and he was buried at Arlington Cemetery. Elizabeth's grief was compounded by her distress over her mother's situation, and on October 22, less than a month later, Mrs. Seay died.

Elizabeth pursued her activities and interests after her husband's death. In 1975, she became the first Secretary to the new organization, The Supreme Court Historical Society. She served in this capacity for six years, after which time she served as a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Committee. She helped formulate policy for the Society and enthusiastically supported and participated in its activities.

During these years, one of Elizabeth's highest priorities was the publication of her book, *Mr. Justice and Mrs. Black: The Memoirs of Hugo L. Black and Elizabeth Black*, which was published in 1986. This work contains approximately 60 pages of memoirs which Justice Black himself completed prior to his death. The remainder of the book contains transitional

material and quotations from Mrs. Black's own personal diaries during her marriage to Justice Black, providing a personal, loving account of their years together.

The publication of the book coincided with the Centennial of the birth of Hugo L. Black, Sr. on February 27, 1986. A presidential proclamation was issued honoring this occasion and a special commemorative stamp was issued by the U.S. Postal Service. A special ceremony was held in the Supreme Court Chamber celebrating these events to which relatives and close friends were invited. Mrs. Black spent a great deal of time in 1986 promoting her book, giving television and radio interviews throughout the country.

In the summer of 1986, Mrs. Black suffered a stroke. She was hospitalized for some time, but returned home to continue her recovery. She made great progress and was able to resume some of her activities. She made plans to attend the 12th Annual Dinner of the Society on May 18th where she would join many of Hugo's former colleagues and law clerks, Hugo, Jr. and his wife Graham, and many of her other friends in celebrating the growth of the Society. Tragically, she died on Sunday, May 17th, just one day before the party. The funeral was held on Friday, May 22 in the Chapel at Ft. Meyer, after which she was buried in Arlington Cemetery alongside Justice Black.

At the direction of her family, a special Elizabeth Seay Black Memorial Fund has been established by the Society. This fund will be used to further the Society's goals to preserve and promote the heritage of the Supreme Court. Elizabeth's every day activities contributed greatly to this goal and her book will also serve as a valuable contribution to future generations.

Supreme Court Historical Society
111 Second Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

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