

United States District Court  
Middle District of Tennessee  
Nashville Division

# Dedication of Library

in memory of

THE HONORABLE HARRY PHILLIPS

by the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Sixth Circuit

**Before:**

HON. PIERCE LIVELY  
HON. GILBERT S. MERRITT  
HON. THOMAS A. WISEMAN, JR.

United States Courthouse  
Nashville, Tennessee  
September 12, 1986  
2:00 p.m.

# Proceedings

---

JUDGE LIVELY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this most unusual event in the life of the Court System.

We are here today to honor a servant of the law in a way that we think he would have approved.

Many of you were in Cincinnati on June 9, 1981, when a portrait of Judge Phillips was presented to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. It hangs in the most appropriate place in our courtroom. It isn't on a long wall, it's on the wall right by the bench, and Judge Phillips looks down on the judges as they sit there and hear oral arguments. As we get up to leave that courtroom at the conclusion of oral arguments, it is impossible to avoid Judge Phillips' eyes. We know what our charge is: Be honest; work hard; do justice for everyone, because that's what he stood for, and that portrait tells us day in and day out what the standards of our conduct should be.

I accepted that portrait on behalf of the court, and before doing so, I went to see Harry, and I said, now, is there anything particular that you want me to say in accepting?

With typical modesty, he said, just say as little as you think you can get by with.

He did mention one verse from the Bible that he said had been his pole star as a judge, Micah 6:8:

"He hath shewed thee, o man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

The qualities that Jehovah laid on the people through the prophet characterized Judge Phillips' personal and professional life.

After Judge Phillips' death, Judge Merritt said that the Nashville Judges wanted a memorial here in the place that Judge Phillips loved so well and where he was so well known, respected and loved. Given Judge Phillips' love of books and his devotion to legal scholarship, it was a natural decision that the Court of Appeals would name the Nashville Library in honor of Judge Phillips.

And so, we're here today to dedicate the Harry Phillips Federal Law Library.

I will not recognize our many distinguished guests at this time because Judge Merritt will do that later. However, at this time we will hear from some of Judge Phillips' closest associates and

