



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, it is meritorious to highlight and honor Tennesseans who have made prominent contributions to the fabric of public life and worked tirelessly to uphold our Constitution and rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Cornelia A. Clark, an eighth-generation native of Williamson County, is one such notable Tennessean who will be forever remembered for her dedicated service as a judge and her role as one of our state's most influential legal minds; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Clark earned her Bachelors and Juris Doctorate degrees at Vanderbilt University and also holds a M.A.T. from Harvard University; and

**WHEREAS**, after a successful career in private practice at Farris, Warfield & Kanaday (now Stites & Harbison) she was appointed a Circuit Judge in the 21st Judicial District in 1989 and was subsequently entrusted by the voters through election in 1990 and re-election in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, her incomparable experience was called upon when she was selected to become the Administrative Director of the Tennessee Courts, the chief administrator of our state's court system; and

**WHEREAS**, just six years later, Governor Bredesen appointed Justice Clark to our state's highest court, the Tennessee Supreme Court; where she became the second woman ever to be elevated to Chief Justice in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Tennessee affirmed her excellent service on the bench by voting overwhelmingly to retain her in the August 2006 and August 2014 statewide elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Clark is a distinguished jurist who is highly regarded by her peers in the legal community, as demonstrated by her numerous awards and recognitions, including receipt of the Justice Martha Craig Daughtrey Award from the Marion Griffin Chapter of the Lawyers' Association for Women, Appellate Judge of the Year by the Southeastern Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Liberty Bell Award from the Williamson County Bar Association, the Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award, and induction into the Nashville YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement, among other significant commendations; and

**WHEREAS**, a woman of deep faith, Justice Clark is a devoted life-long member of the First United Methodist Church in Franklin where she has served her fellow congregants as lay leader, member of the Board of Trustees, and chairperson of the United Methodist Church Publishing House; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 24, 2021, Justice Clark, having lived an extraordinary life of service to her Lord and the people of our State, passed away while battling cancer; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2021 as a date to honor

*Justice Cornelia A. Clark*

and recognize her lifetime of service to the people of Tennessee.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-fourth day of September, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

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Secretary of State