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Home Obituaries

# BUTLER, Manley

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BUTLER Manley Caldwell Manley Caldwell Butler died on July 28, 2014 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. William Wilson Samuel Butler, Jr. and Sarah Poage Caldwell Butler; brother, Dr. William Wilson Samuel Butler, III; one granddaughter, Margaret Noide Butler, and his beloved wife of sixty four years, June Noide Butler, who passed away on June 28. He is survived by his four sons, Manley Caldwell Butler, Jr. of Roanoke, Henry Nolde Butler and his wife Paige of Huntly, Virginia, James Ormond Butler of Roanoke, and Marshall Whitfield Butler and his wife Cheri of Nashville, Tennessee; six grandchildren, Manley Caldwell Butler III, Catherine Gray Butler, Sarah Butler Donovan and her husband Benjamin Donovan, Ensign Andrew G. Butler, Henry A. "Hank" Butler, and Stephanie Butler Watson and her husband Cody; and two step grandchildren, Katherine Taylor Klauber and Christopher C. Klauber. Butler was born on June 2, 1925 at the Jefferson Hospital in Roanoke. He was educated at Mrs. Genheimer's Kindergarten, Crystal Spring Elementary School, Lee Junior High School and Jefferson High School (Class of 1942) where he was a member of the debate team, on the staff of the school magazine and editor of the Acorn Annual. In the fall of 1942, he attended Richmond College with a Settle Memorial Scholarship. On July 1, 1943, he joined the United States Naval Reserve as a member of its V-12 Program. He graduated from the Midshipman's School at Columbia University in March of 1945 and became an Ensign. By the time of his discharge from active duty on July 11, 1946, he was an Officer-in-Charge of a crash boat with responsibilities for Air-Sea Rescue attached to the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. He returned to Richmond College where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and editor of the yearbook ("The Web"); he graduated in 1948. Butler attended law school at the University of Virginia from 1947 to 1950 and was a member of the Editorial Board of the Virginia Law Review, the Raven Society and the Order of the Coif. Following graduation, he married June Parker Nolde of Richmond and then returned to Roanoke where he was associated with the firm of Hazlegrave, Shackelford and Carr, for two years; ten years of solo practice followed. In 1962, he was a founding partner of Eggleston, Holton, Butler and Glenn where he remained until his 1972 election to the United States House of Representatives. In 1983 he left Congress and became a partner in the Roanoke law firm of Woods Rogers until his retirement in 1998. Butler served on the National Bankruptcy Review Commission during its entire tenure from 1997 to 1999. He served on two of the University of Virginia's Miller Center for Public Affairs national commissions: "Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment, 1988" and "The Commission on Choosing and Using Vice-Presidents, 1992". Butler's political career began in 1958 when he ran for Roanoke City Council, losing narrowly. In 1961, he became the first Republican elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from the City of Roanoke in fifty years. He went to the House as one of only five Republican Delegates, but was the minority leader of 25 delegates upon his departure ten years later. Butler was a member of Congress from November 1972 until January 1983 when he declined to seek reelection. He served during his entire tenure on the House Judiciary Committee, as well as stints on others. It was during his first term that the Judiciary committee was asked to affirm the nomination of Gerald Ford to succeed Spiro Agnew as Vice President, consider the impeachment of President Richard Nixon and approve the nomination by President Ford of Nelson Rockefeller to become the new Vice President. In 1976, he was appointed as a member of the Board of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and a member of the Congressional delegation to Great Britain to borrow the Magna Carta during the United States Bicentennial. Butler was a principal author of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. He was a lifelong member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Roanoke and a member of its Vestry. He became an Eagle Scout in 1941, and in 1973 became the first Distinguished Eagle Scout of the Blue Ridge Council. He served on the boards of the Virginia Theological Seminary, the Virginia Historical Society and the City of Roanoke Library Foundation. As a proud descendant of Chief Justice John Marshall, Butler became one of the first members of the board of the John Marshall Foundation which oversees the The John Marshall House in downtown Richmond. He received the 1998 MS Silver Hope Award of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Blue Ridge Chapter, and in 1999, was installed in the Business Hall of Fame of the Junior Achievement of the Roanoke Valley. Through an Act of Congress, the Roanoke main post office was rededicated and named the "The M. Caldwell Butler Building" on July 10, 2002. On February 21, 2001, by Resolution of the Virginia General Assembly, "as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and appreciation for his courageous, committed and trail blazing political career", he was commended for his many years of distinguished services to the citizens of Roanoke and the Commonwealth. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to St. John's Episcopal Church P.O. Box 257 Roanoke, VA 24002 or Roanoke Public Library Foundation 706 S. Jefferson St. Roanoke, VA 24016. A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Roanoke on Friday, August 1, 2014 at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 2014 at Oakey's Roanoke Chapel.

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