



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Legislation Text

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Honoring the life of Judge Edward R. Becker.

WHEREAS, Edward Becker was born in Philadelphia 73 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Becker graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Yale Law School; and

WHEREAS, As a lawyer, Becker practiced in Center City Philadelphia and was known for his groundbreaking legal work on class-action law and employment law and for setting standards for expert testimony; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Becker was named to the federal trial bench by President Richard Nixon, and then to the Third Circuit in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan. He was Chief Judge from 1998 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, His work as a judge was substantial. His work ethic and style made him a mentor and friend to many judges and justices, lawyers and law clerks. Often, his legal rationale was adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, May 22, 2006, Judge Edward Becker was remembered for his contributions to the legal community, his City and his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, At Becker's tribute, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito stated, "I can't tell you how much he helped me, particularly during the last few months of his life." Chief Judge Anthony J. Scirica added, "He was the heart and soul of our court"; and

WHEREAS, Third Circuit Judge Marjorie O. Rendell sang a song in tribute, a capella, "As Time Goes By," and said that Judge Becker was her mentor, teacher and advisor; and

WHEREAS, While Becker is honored for his public contributions, he will always be remembered as a dedicated husband and father; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby honor the life of Judge Edward R. Becker.