

RETIREMENT OF MR. JUSTICE REED.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1957.

Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN, MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE REED, MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE BURTON, MR. JUSTICE CLARK, MR. JUSTICE HARLAN, and MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

On January 31, 1938, more than nineteen years ago, Mr. Justice Reed, already rich in governmental service and in the practice of his profession, took his oath of office as a member of this Court. There is but one of us—MR. JUSTICE BLACK—who was here on that occasion to welcome him. During the intervening years, he has served with four Chief Justices and eighteen Associate Justices, all of whom became indebted to him in their joint work of the Court for the wide range of his knowledge, the depth of his wisdom, and the warmth of his personality.

Today he retires, having established himself in the hearts of all of us and after having made a significant contribution to American constitutional law.

We, who are his associates, regret his retirement but only in the sense that we shall be deprived of his daily companionship and wise counsel.

For him, we rejoice that this retirement comes while he is in full vigor of mind and body, and capable of enjoying the many good things of life, which his long and devoted public service has compelled him to forego.

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Our personal regard for him and our appreciation of his great service to the Court are most adequately expressed in our letter to him which, with his brotherly reply, will be spread upon the Minutes of the Court.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE,
Washington 25, D. C., February 23, 1957.

Honorable STANLEY F. REED,
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR JUSTICE REED:

It will seem strange, indeed, after next Monday not to see you in the chairs you have occupied on the bench and in the conference room for the past nineteen years. Only one of our number can recall, as a member of the Court, when you were not a part of it. All of us will remember throughout life the contribution you have made to the work of the Court and your companionship with each of us. This companionship we shall miss, but we have no right to regret your well-earned retirement.

Since 1929, when you came from your home State of Kentucky to Washington, as General Counsel of the Federal Farm Board, and thereafter successively as General Counsel of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, as Special Assistant to the Attorney General, as Solicitor General of the United States, and as an Associate Justice of this Court, you have given completely twenty-eight of the best years of your life to the nation. More could not be asked of anyone.

You richly deserve the relaxation, which will flow from the relinquishment of the duties you have borne so conscientiously these many years. We rejoice that you are in the good health and spirits to enjoy some of the finer things in life that strict attention to duty has heretofore compelled you to forego.

We shall miss our official association with you, but our friendship and our best wishes for your happiness will always remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

EARL WARREN
HUGO L. BLACK
FELIX FRANKFURTER
WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS
HAROLD H. BURTON
TOM C. CLARK
JOHN M. HARLAN
WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., February 25, 1957.

DEAR BRETHREN:

Your gracious letter on my retirement epitomized the close personal relationship between the members of this Court. I shall miss the intimate association that joint interests in the fair administration of justice has engendered.

I, too, shall look forward to the continuance of the close friendships that have thus been nurtured.

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That common and abiding interest in the welfare of our Country that has animated our discussions and decisions will hold us together in friendly intercourse during the future years.

With all good wishes for each of you, I am

Faithfully yours,

STANLEY REED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
MR. JUSTICE BLACK
MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER
MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS
MR. JUSTICE BURTON
MR. JUSTICE CLARK
MR. JUSTICE HARLAN
MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN