

TRIBUTE TO MR. JUSTICE BLACK.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1962.

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Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN, MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE CLARK, MR. JUSTICE HARLAN, MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN, MR. JUSTICE STEWART and MR. JUSTICE WHITE.

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Mr. Solicitor General Cox addressed the Court as follows:

Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the Court: As the current Term closes, Mr. Justice Black will have completed 25 full Terms as an Associate Justice of this Court. This is a rare event in the Court's history. Although it would be inappropriate to speak at length, the members of the Bar would wish me to call attention to the event and to mention Mr. Justice Black's extraordinarily great contributions during those 25 Terms to the country, to the law, and to the Court. May I add two other things on behalf of the entire Bar: first, that we have always enjoyed, and will always value, the opportunity to appear before him and thus join in the common enterprise of administering justice for all; second, that we wish him health and good fortune to serve for many Terms to come.

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Mr. Solicitor General: This is, indeed, a significant event in the life of the Court, and it is highly appropriate that you, Mr. Solicitor General, as a leader of the Bar, should initiate its recordation in today's proceedings.

We share to the fullest extent your appreciation of the great service Mr. Justice Black has rendered to our Nation, and we join your felicitous words concerning his continued service and his future happiness.

Of the 97 Justices who have been appointed to this Court, only 16 have served as long as Mr. Justice Black and none with greater fidelity or singleness of purpose. His unflagging devotion has been to the Constitution of the United States.

The importance of any period of time depends always upon its relation to other things. Abstractly, a quarter of a century in history is little more than a grain of sand in the hourglass of time, but, measured in terms of the service of one man to the well-being of a young and dynamic country such as our own, it is a long and important period of time.

It is with such a measuring stick and with affectionate regard that we measure and record in our proceedings the 25 years of service of Mr. Justice Black to this Court and our Nation.