

DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE REED

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1980

Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER, MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN, MR. JUSTICE STEWART, MR. JUSTICE WHITE, MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL, MR. JUSTICE BLACKMUN, MR. JUSTICE POWELL, MR. JUSTICE REHNQUIST, and MR. JUSTICE STEVENS.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Before we proceed today with the regular business of the Court, it is our sad duty to take note of the death of our beloved colleague and friend Mr. Justice Stanley Reed.

He served as a Justice of this Court from 1938 to 1957, after having served as Solicitor General of the United States from 1935 to 1938.

His death came almost 22 years after retiring from this Court, but retirement for Mr. Justice Reed was not the end, but a continuation of his judicial career.

At his own request, he was assigned to sit on United States Courts of Appeals throughout the United States, and particularly on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I shared the pleasant and valuable experience of sitting with him on many cases on that Court, so I found firsthand what his colleagues of this Court knew: that Mr. Justice Reed was a thoughtful, painstaking, able jurist, dedicated to the American system and the Constitution. His 19 years in this Court spanned one of the most stirring periods of the country's history and the Court's history. But whether in agreement or dissent in cases of great importance, Mr. Justice Reed was the epitome of civility.

His career as lawyer in government was unusual, to say the least. He was successively General Counsel of the Federal Farm Board, General Counsel of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and Solicitor General of the United States before his appointment to this Court by President Roosevelt. He lived a rich and full life in every respect.

I speak for all the Members of this Court in expressing our profound sympathy to Mrs. Reed and to her family, the two sons of Mr. Justice Reed and Mrs. Reed.

On an appropriate occasion after the opening of the next Term of this Court in October, the official memorial service of the Bar will be conducted for Mr. Justice Reed in this Chamber.