



Howard Pelham Wallace

September 10, 1930 - November 8, 2024

On November 8, 2024, the high court denied retired attorney Howard Pelham Wallace's final motion to continue, and he expired peacefully. He was 94. Born September 10, 1930, at his parent's home on Taylor Street, Griffin, Georgia, he was the second son of the late Stephen Bailey Wallace and Alberta Williamson Wallace.

When he was six his family moved to Maple Drive, and he finished grammar school at Third Ward and then Griffin High School graduating Valedictorian in the class of 1948. He entered the University of Georgia as a Regent's Scholar and on the way to an ABJ degree he joined everything in sight, including Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Phi, ODK and Gridiron among others. He was a reporter and then columnist for the Red and Black student newspaper. His final year as an undergraduate was spent in his first year of law school and through ROTC, he was awarded his commission as Second Lieutenant, Armor. He graduated as an undergraduate in 1952 in the top 5% of his class. He was immediately activated and sent first to the Armored School, Fort Knox, Ky., and upon completion then to the 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas. His military service began as an ExO of a replacement training company, then S2 of the 100th tank battalion and duty as permanent trial counsel, then officer in charge of the Post newspaper, the Armored Sentinel, and finally Post Information Officer. He remained in the Army reserves until 1966 before retiring with the rank of Major. Released from active duty he returned to law school where he joined Phi Delta Phi and was a student editor of the Georgia

Bar Journal.

After receiving his LLB degree he accepted an offer to attend graduate law school at Indiana University, Bloomington, and serve as house Counselor at the Indiana Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta while awaiting the results of the State Bar Exam. At IU, a fraternity brother arranged a blind date with a Delta Gamma senior and from the moment he saw Micki coming down the stairs, it was love at first sight. They courted while Micki finished her BS degree and married at St. Paul's Episcopal Church the afternoon of her graduation. The union was permanent and lasted for almost 60 years until her sudden death in 2016.

Jobless and penniless they returned to Griffin after their honeymoon, and he began practicing law and raising a family. Howard practiced law with his father, then accepted an appointment as assistant attorney general, and then a return to private practice with his brother, the late Albert Bailey Wallace. He considered himself a trial lawyer and tried over 1500 cases, civil, criminal, domestic relations and condemnation, including many eminent domain cases to acquire the right of way for I-75 in Clayton County and the necessary land for the expansion of Hartsfield International Airport. He was an officer of all courts including the United States Supreme Court. He said, "Court reporters always know the best lawyers," and he was proud that he represented every court reporter he ever worked with. Professionally he was a member of the board of governors of the State Bar of Georgia, a life member of the Georgia Bar Foundation, a member of the State Bar's fee arbitration committee, a member of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta and a member of the Governor's committee on judicial selection.

Both he and his late wife were active in the civic life of Griffin. He felt his most rewarding civic involvement was his membership in the first bi-racial committee, formed during the turbulent sixties to reduce racial tension. He was a devoted Rotarian and during his term as president in 1992 fostered the admission of women for the first time for which he was soundly criticized. He worked closely with the Georgia Rotary Student Program and won the

coveted Hunt Cup for best committee for the Rotary Club of Griffin three times. He was also a member and president of the Deck Club, former president of the Griffin Spalding Historical Society, a member of the McIntosh Trail Robert Burns Society, an original organizer of Spalamar and a member of the Society of Colonial Wars. In 1996, he was named General Griffin. His main hobby, aside from Georgia football and ancestry, was little theater where he acted and directed for more than 60 years. He Emceed many awards banquets and roasts and was a frequent eulogist.

Baptized a Presbyterian he joined the Episcopal Church when his first child was born and was an active and faithful member of St. George's in Griffin for more than 60 years.

Until her death in 2016 he and Micki traveled extensively on worldwide cruises, visits to Europe and Asia, house parties at the Shapard chateau in France, "Sport Island Eight" excursions and annual family vacations to Ormond Beach, Fla.

Howard is survived by his children, Col. Elizabeth W. Fleming, a retired attorney in Kodiak, Alaska; Stephen Williamson Wallace and his wife Laura Beckham Wallace and their children, Laura Emily Wallace and Stephen Williamson Wallace Jr. (Will), Will's wife Dr. Lauren Washburn Wallace and their son Stephen Williamson Wallace III (Tripp); Janice Marie Wallace, an attorney with Beck, Owen & Murray in Griffin, and Dr. Ann Howard Wallace, a professor at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. The family would like to thank Howard's long-time caregiver Mary Lamar for allowing him to stay home where he wanted to be and the staff at Eternal Hope Hospice for making the end of his life restful.

He was fiercely proud of being a Double Dog and lifelong Democrat.

A funeral service will be held at St. George's Episcopal Church in Griffin, Georgia on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 2:00PM. Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery. The family will visit with friends following the service at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to the Griffin Area Resource Center building fund (<https://www.griffinarc.org/getinvolved>).

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

Memorial Dr.
Griffin, GA 30223

Previous Events

Service

NOV **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. George's Episcopal Church
132 N. 10th St.
Griffin, GA 30223

Tribute Wall

DI

“ Dear Family,
I had hoped to attend Howard's funeral and pay my respects. Unfortunately, due to complications from my recent cancer surgery, attending is simply not practical. For this I apologize and forward my condolences and sympathy for your loss.
During my times in Howard's presence, I was always struck by his gentlemanly demeanor. He impressed me as a treasured holdover from a more cultured era when men could have differing opinions without acrimony. Never once did I see him argumentative or unpleasant. In fact, during the very few times we did disagree, his gently blunt, concise statements supporting his position were erudite, intelligently worded and honored his law training. Usually, there was some dry wit or folksy references enhancing his case. Fortunately for me, I never had to oppose him as an attorney. My verbal and mental skills would have been helpless against his. Happily, most of my interactions with Howard were social or during civic activities. My memories were of his good nature, affability and pleasant conversations. His tales, historical references and stories were engaging.
He was the perfect antidote to today's coarse "sound bite" world. His loss moves us another large step further into our current unpleasant partisan abyss. I really will miss Howard personally, and men of his caliber and stature.
Again, my sincerely condolences, Dick Morrow

Dick - November 24, 2024 at 01:48 PM

FH

“ My Phi Delta friend! Will miss him greatly! My condolence to the family.

Frank Holden - November 15, 2024 at 10:35 AM

AM

“ Howard was a very dear friend for many, many years via church, Rotary, Deck Club, and many other organizations. We partied together too many times to count. We will miss both him and Micki. - Allen Marshall

Allen Marshall - November 14, 2024 at 05:45 PM

CL

“ I always so much appreciated Mr. Wallace. He lit up any room that he was in with his beautiful smile and gregarious laugh and personality.

I am one of the court reporters who knew that she had a special friendship with Mr. Wallace.

It was truly a blessed day for me when I crossed paths with him after he retired. What joy to have this great treat to see him out and about, have a quick hug and get to visit with him.

Prayers for the Wallace Family.

Cathy R. Leach - November 13, 2024 at 01:41 PM

HJ

“ Howard Mark Johnson lit a candle in memory of Howard Pelham Wallace



Howard Mark Johnson - November 13, 2024 at 10:45 AM

FS

“ Our families grew up together at St. Georges. Those days were always good days. The Scott boys will always have great memories shared with the Wallace family. I am saddened by the news. May comfort and peace be with everyone he touched.

Fred Scott - November 12, 2024 at 03:31 PM

NC

“ Knowing Howard was such a pleasure. He had a remarkable life which he enjoyed with enthusiasm and great love for his family, friends, and community. He will be remembered with precious memories of happy times and adventures. I pray those memories will bring comfort to all who grieve his loss and send love and deepest sympathy to his family.
Nancy Clark

Nancy Clark - November 12, 2024 at 01:38 PM

FH

His nick nu was Guppy.

Frank Holden - November 15, 2024 at 10:41 AM

KM

“ Howard was a good friend, a good neighbor, a zealous and ethical attorney and a good American. He cared for the good of the community and was not afraid to espouse projects for the common good even at the expense of his own purse. He was also a good actor so I think he would appreciate this from Shakespeare: He only, in general honest thought and for the common good to all, made one of them. His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all of world, ‘This was a man.’
Kenneth Reynolds

Kenneth Reynolds, MD - November 12, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Pelham Wallace.*



November 12, 2024 at 12:03 PM



“ *Howard was a kind, generous, loving soul and we miss him. He was one of the good guys and the last of SGEC's old school. There is solace in knowing he is with the love of his life now and at peace.*

Darlene Brown - November 11, 2024 at 06:57 PM



A friend and I met Howard and Mickey with Ginger and her husband Bobby together on a cruise. They were two wonderful couples. A trip to Atlanta a few years later allowed me the wonderful opportunity to meet up with them again. We agreed on everything, especially politics, Howard and I kept in touch now and then on Facebook. A sweet and kind gentleman. May his memory be for a blessing. May your sweet memories comfort the family at this time. Carol Fein

Carol Feint - November 11, 2024 at 07:06 PM



So sad to hear of Howard's passing. I'll miss the dinners we shared with Janice at The Lawyer's Club of Atlanta where I enjoyed our lively conversations, usually tales about old school lawyers in our small town. I'll miss you Howard.

Emmett Arnold - November 11, 2024 at 10:45 PM

LA

I lived in Griffin from 1978-1999. I was very active in The Griffin Footlight Players. That is how I got to know Howard. We became good friends. He directed the first play I was in at the Imperial Theatre. We did Plaza Suite one year and the funniest act was act 2-where the bride locks herself in the hotel bathroom and won't come out. Howard played the father of the bride-he was perfect! Hilarious! May you rest in peace, Howard! Lauren Armistead/Crawford.

Lauren Armistead/Crawford - November 12, 2024 at 03:33 PM