

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 10
Resolution No. 2026-04-10

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE NEW SULLIVAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JOHN SIDNEY MCLELLAN III

WHEREAS, The Honorable John Sidney McLellan III grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee, graduating from Dobyns-Bennett High School in 1964, and went on to attend the University of Tennessee, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1968, followed by a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan joined the Kingsport Bar Association in 1971 and practiced law in both federal and state courts for twenty-four years as a general practitioner, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to the legal profession and the citizens he served; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to public service was evident through his tenure as Sullivan County Attorney from 1984 through 1994, as well as his service as City Attorney for the Town of Mt. Carmel and as Judge of the Kingsport City Juvenile Court; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Governor Ned Ray McWherter appointed Judge McLellan as Judge of Division I of the 2nd Judicial District Circuit Court of the State of Tennessee, where he served with distinction for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his judicial career, Judge McLellan was known for his fairness, integrity, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to justice, earning the respect of litigants, attorneys, and fellow jurists alike, and was repeatedly reelected—often without opposition—reflecting the confidence placed in him by the citizens of this district; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan has been an active member of numerous legal and professional organizations, including the American Judicature Society, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and as a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association, and has further contributed to his alma mater through service on the Board of Governors of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan's life of service has been supported and strengthened by his wife, Wanda G. McLellan, née Gulley, and their marriage of sixty years has been marked by deep devotion, enduring partnership, and a shared commitment to family and community; and

CONTINUED

WHEREAS, through his decades of service on the bench, Judge McLellan has shaped the administration of justice in this region, mentored generations of attorneys, and impacted countless families and individuals, leaving a lasting legacy that will endure well beyond his tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Sullivan County recognize individuals whose service has brought honor and distinction to the judiciary and to the community as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sullivan County Commission that the new Sullivan County Courthouse section of the Kingsport Justice Center shall be named the "John Sidney McLellan III Courthouse" in honor of his lifetime of service, his enduring contributions to the administration of justice, and his profound impact on Sullivan County and the State of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate signage be erected and all official references to the new courthouse reflect this designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Judge McLellan and his family as a token of the County's appreciation and gratitude for his exemplary service.

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

WAIVER OF RULES REQUESTED

Duly adopted this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: _____
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: _____
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method: _____.

Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

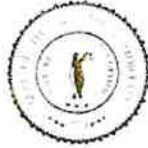
Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

CONTINUED

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by _____ the following method:

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Joe McMurray
Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones; Commissioner Travis Ward; Commissioner Zane Vanover; Commissioner Jessica Means; Commissioner John Gardner; Commissioner Gary Stidham.



CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF TENNESSEE
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

S. CURTIS ROSE
CIRCUIT JUDGE

OLD CITY HALL BUILDING
225 W. CENTER STREET
KINGSPORT, TN 37680
OFF. (423) 224-1728
FAX (423) 224-2040

April 15, 2026

Mayor Richard S. Venable
All Sullivan County Commissioners

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

Please accept this letter of support from the Judges of the Second Judicial District for the naming of all court related operations at the Kingsport Justice Center. All of the undersigned are in support of naming the courthouse, which is located on the second floor of the Justice Center, the Hon. John S. McLellan, III Courthouse.

As you know, Judge McLellan passed away in February and shortly thereafter, we began an endeavor to appropriately honor the legacy of Judge McLellan who spent over half his life in public service. From his time as county attorney to his 30 years of service on the bench, naming the courthouse after Judge McLellan is a fitting and appropriate honor.

This matter came before the Kingsport Bar Association and they unanimously agreed and therefore voted for Resolution in support of the naming of the courthouse.

We wanted to make you all aware of this support before the next Sullivan County Commission meeting. It is the Judges hope that this Commission finds this letter with favor and will pass a resolution in support of the naming the courthouse after Judge McLellan.

Sincerely,

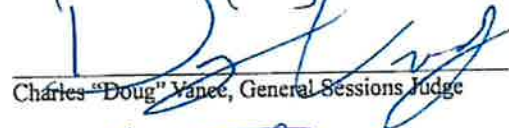

S. Curtis Rose, Presiding Judge, Circuit Part I


Katie Priester, Chancellor


James F. Goodwin, Criminal Court Judge


William K. Rogers, Circuit Part II


Teresa A. Nelson, General Sessions Judge


Charles "Doug" Vance, General Sessions Judge


Mark H. Toohey, General Sessions Judge


Ray Conkin, General Sessions Judge





Option 3