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## Dedication to Chief Justice Morris C. Montgomery

Edward P. Hill Jr.  
*Kentucky Court of Appeals*

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# Dedication

MORRIS CARPENTER MONTGOMERY  
1907-1969

## *Editor's Note:*

*It is with a great deal of sadness and respect that this issue of the Kentucky Law Journal is dedicated to the late Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Morris C. Montgomery. Judge Montgomery and his wife, Frances, died in an automobile accident on September 3, 1969, while on their way home from attending a meeting at the American Bar Convention in Dallas, Texas, and a conference on judicial retirement in Denver, Colorado.*

*Born April 1, 1907, in Hustonville, Kentucky, Judge Montgomery attended the University of Kentucky and Transylvania College, receiving his A.B. degree from Transylvania in 1928. He received his LL.B. degree from Washington & Lee University in 1930 and that same year entered the practice of law in Liberty, Kentucky. During the next twenty-four years, he served the people of his community and state as Police Judge, City Attorney, Commonwealth's Attorney, and State Senator; and served his country during World War II as an officer in the United States Air Force. Appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 1954, he served continuously in that capacity, including two terms as Chief Justice, until his untimely death.*

*The following remarks were made by Chief Justice Edward P. Hill, Jr., Judge Montgomery's successor in that office, on opening the Fall term of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, September 8, 1969.*

At the beginning of this Fall Term of this Court, I would like to say a few words concerning the great loss this Court sustained from the tragic death of Judge Morris Montgomery.

Words cannot express the shock and sadness felt by the entire Court and its personnel since we received

the bad news last Wednesday afternoon. Our shock and sadness is intensified by the loss of Mrs. Montgomery, the lovely, vivacious, and devoted wife of Judge Montgomery.

During the 15 years Judge Montgomery was a member of this Court he has written his own epitaph. I shall mention only a few of his distinguishing qualities. First of all, he believed in strict law enforcement. He was a champion of the Rule of *Stare Decisis*; he did not believe in excessive verdicts, particularly when the taxpayer was the paymaster. He was courageous—and I might add tenacious in his convictions. Yet he was always affable and without rancor toward those who did not share his convictions.

We shall miss Judge Montgomery. We shall miss his hearty laughter, which echoed through the corridors of this building. The State of Kentucky has lost an honest, fearless, and able public servant.

But today and henceforth we must bear our grief and proceed to carry on the important functions of this the highest judicial tribunal of this Commonwealth. A good army will fight regardless of the loss of its great general.

With the help of my distinguished and able colleagues, we shall carry on.