

March 20, 2000

PRESS RELEASE

Senior Judge Lawrence A. Wright of the United States Tax Court died peacefully from complications of cancer on March 19, 2000, at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Judge Wright was appointed to the United States Tax Court by President Reagan, taking the oath of office on October 30, 1984, and assuming senior status on November 1, 1996.

Judge Wright was born on December 25, 1927, in Stratton, Maine.

Entering the U.S. Army as a private in 1945, Judge Wright was released from active duty 42 months later as a second lieutenant on November 30, 1948, and ultimately retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in 1978 as a colonel in the judge advocate branch. His military awards included the Legion of Merit.

Judge Wright earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine in 1953, a law degree from Georgetown University in 1956, and a master in law in taxation degree from Boston University Law School in 1962. From 1957 to 1969, he was senior trial counsel for the IRS in Boston. He served as Tax Commissioner for the State of Vermont from 1969 through 1971, when he joined the Burlington, Vermont, law firm of Gravel, Shea & Wright, Ltd., where he practiced law until his 1984 appointment to the Tax Court.

Judge Wright resided in Annapolis, Maryland, with his wife of 47 years, the former Avis F. Leahy. They have five sons: Michael, of Vermont; David, of Annapolis; James, of Montpelier, France; Stephen, of Portland, Maine; and Douglas, of San Francisco; and six grandchildren.