

Presentation of the Portrait

Portrait Artist

It has been an honor for me to paint Chief Justice Henry Frye's portrait. He is an elegant, intelligent man whose life has been a beacon for change and justice. His portrait is about yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Henry's encounter with Martin Luther King, Jr. became a pivotal point in his life. He wanted his state, North Carolina, to be a free and equal democracy for all. I wanted to communicate his connection to overcoming the denial of his right to register to vote. I painted him ascending a staircase, up the steps like Martin Luther King, Jr. going up to the mountain. The work is not over; there is still much more climbing to do.

One can see kindness in his eyes, but you also see resolve. Included in the painting is the North Carolina flag, as Justice Frye was the first African American Chief Justice, as well as an acclaimed civil rights leader in the South.

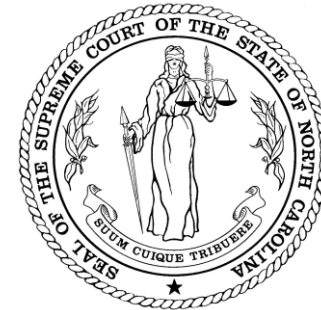
It was important for me to include Henry Frye's wife Shirley. This is done in a very subtle way. Chief Justice Frye is leaning on a pillar with the emblem of the North Carolina seal of justice on the base. One can clearly see a wedding band on his hand, one that he normally does not wear! This is representative of Shirley Frye as a pillar of Henry's life's work. She has been behind the scenes in so many ways to help support Henry in his endeavors and to bring together the community of Greensboro and this state. Shirley is a beloved woman and is represented as a bright twinkle of gold.

Victoria Carlin Milstein is owner of VCM studio, a gallery and classroom in downtown Greensboro. She has painted both private and public figures for more than twenty years. She relocated to Greensboro from New York City in 2010. She is now working on and exhibiting a Series of paintings on the Women of Mali, West Africa. Her paintings can be seen in public and private collections worldwide. For more information see:

VCMstudio.com.

of

HENRY E. FRYE



*Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina
1999-2000
Associate Justice
1983-1999*

December 8, 2015

Henry E. Frye can often be seen writing a quick poem or witty thought; however, little did he know as a young boy in Ellerbe, North Carolina his name would be oft written in the annals of North Carolina history. After leaving Ellerbe for his much beloved North Carolina A & T State University, Henry Ell, as he was affectionately known, began a career of marked success. He graduated from A & T with highest honors, majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry and Air Science, was called to the Air Force and married his college sweetheart, E. Shirley Taylor. The day of his wedding, he was denied the right to register to vote. While he was not the first African American denied that right, his experience and desire to effectuate change led to a series of opportunities.

Henry Frye enrolled for the study of Law as the first Year 1 African American at the UNC School of Law. Other firsts included: Assistant US Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina in 1963, the North Carolina General Assembly in 1969 (in the twentieth century), where he championed measures to eliminate the very literacy test that prevented him from voting on his wedding day, and among many others encouraged access to higher education, including the establishment of the Brody School of Medicine. In 1983 Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. appointed Henry Frye as Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and in 1999 he appointed him Chief Justice of the Court.

Upon retiring from the Court in 2000, Justice Frye became Of Counsel at Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard, LLP. He also participates in a myriad of philanthropic endeavors.

While Justice Frye's career has been marked by a number of great opportunities, his greatest accomplishments have been as husband for 59 years to Shirley; father to Henry, Jr and Harlan; father-in-law to Angela; grandfather to Whitney, Jordan, and Endya; grandfather-in-law to Brandon; and great grandfather to Avery.

In addition to Justice Frye's witty speeches and quick retorts, he can often be heard quoting Edgar Albert Guest's poem, "It Couldn't Be Done." One could say, however, of Chief Justice Frye "with a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin, without any doubting or quiddit, he started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done, and he did it."

As told by his granddaughter,
Whitney C. Frye

PROGRAM

Supreme Court Courtroom
2:00 p.m., December 8, 2015

Sounding of the Gavel	Christie Cameron Roeder Clerk Supreme Court of North Carolina
Invocation	Henry E. Frye, Jr., Associate Pastor Love and Faith Christian Fellowship
Welcoming Remarks	Mark D. Martin Chief Justice Supreme Court of North Carolina
Remarks	James B. Hunt, Jr. Former Governor State of North Carolina
Remarks	James A. Wynn, Jr. Judge U.S. Court of Appeals—4th Circuit
Presentation of the Portrait	James T. Williams, Jr. Partner Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard LLP
Reflections	Henry E. Frye Retired Chief Justice Supreme Court of North Carolina
Unveiling of the Portrait	Harlan E. Frye and Granddaughters
Acceptance of the Portrait	Mark D. Martin Chief Justice Supreme Court of North Carolina

A receiving line will form at the front of the Courtroom upon conclusion of the Ceremony, and a Dessert Reception, sponsored by the Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard, LLP will follow in the History Center, 1st Floor of this Building.