

Chief Justice T. H. Stukes Dies In Charleston Hospital

CHARLESTON, S. C. — (AP) — Chief Justice Taylor Hudson Stukes, a State Supreme Court jurist for 21 years, died here early Monday at the age of 67.

Gov. Ernest F. Hollings called his passing a "terrific loss" to the state's judiciary.

Stukes died at 12:45 a.m. He had undergone surgery Thursday to replace a disease-weakened section of the aorta, the principal artery carrying blood from the heart.

Officials at the hospital of the Medical College of South Carolina, where Stukes was a patient, said Friday that the state's ranking jurist was in critical condition and was expected to continue so for at least 48 hours, due to the serious nature of the surgery.

The operation was termed "successful" by a member of the family. Death was attributed to "complications" that developed afterward.

The Medical College Hospital reported that Stukes suffered from multiple aneurysms of the aorta, with impending rupture. An aneurysm is a swelling resulting from a weakened area of the artery. A rupture could have meant certain death.

Funeral services have been set for today 11 a.m. at the Manning Presbyterian Church at Manning, his home town.

Stukes was an associate justice of the Supreme Court when Chief Justice D. Gordon Baker resigned in 1956. As the ranking associate justice, Stukes was elected by the legislature to the post of chief justice.

The ranking associate justice



JUSTICE STUKES

at present, and the man likely to succeed Stukes is Claude Ambrose Taylor of Spartanburg, who was elected to the bench in 1944.

The move will create another vacancy among the ranks of the associate justices. It will be filled

Only recently, State Circuit Judge J. Woodrow Lewis of Darlington was elected to fill the vacancy created by the pending retirement of Associate Justice Lionel K. Legge of Charleston.

Stukes was the third widely-known state official to die in a little over a week. Chief Highway Commissioner Claude R. McMillan died Sunday, Feb. 12, and retired State Historian E. S. Salley died Sunday.

Gov. Hollings said the entire

state has been saddened by the passing of the respected jurist.

"The wisdom of his decisions, the charity of his heart, and the spirit of Christianity in his every action shall live forever as a monument to this great and important leader and gentleman," the governor said.

The final rites will be conducted by Stukes' pastor, the Rev. Cameron D. L. Mosser, the Rev. W. G. Foster of Florence and the Rev. Don Bailey of Kingstree.

Active pallbearers will be nephews of the jurist. Honorary pallbearers will be the Manning Presbyterian Church elders, associate justices of the State Supreme Court, the president of the State Bar Association, and the senior official in Clarendon County. The family has designated the Manning Presbyterian Church building fund, or other Presbyterian institutions, as memorials.

Stukes was elected to the high court by the legislature in 1940 for an unexpired term, then was elected to two full, 10-year terms. The legislature chose him chief justice, without opposition, on Jan. 11, 1956, when Baker resigned.

Stukes was a member of the State House of Representatives from 1923 to 1926, and in the State Senate for Clarendon County from 1927 to 1940.

He leaves his widow, the former Georgie Sauls, also of Manning; a son, J. T. Stukes of Columbia; a daughter, Mrs. Steve Skardon of New Orleans, La.; two brothers, Dr. Lionel Stukes of Summerton, and Gary Stukes of Atlanta; and a sister, Mrs. John Burgess of Atlanta.

Chief Justice T. H. Stukes Laid to Rest

By MONT MORTON
Staff Writer for The State

MANNING—Chief Justice Taylor H. Stukes was buried Tuesday with services attended by hundreds of friends, fellow jurists and state officials from throughout South Carolina.

Rites for the widely-respected chief justice who died Monday were held in the Presbyterian Church one block from his white frame home.

Interment was in Manning Memorial Cemetery, where governors, legislative leaders, associate justices, circuit judges and young attorneys stood bareheaded in a light mist.

Services were conducted by the Rev. Cameron D. L. Mosser of Manning, the Rev. W. G. Foster of Florence and the Rev. Don Bailey of Kingstree.

At 67, Justice Stukes was ruling elder of the Manning Presbyterian Church. In services Tuesday he was described as a "man of good and gracious influences."

"He was a man of ability, fidelity and high character; a strong and true Christian setting high examples for fellow Christians."

Gov. Ernest F. Hollings, who was among those attending services Tuesday, said Monday that the death of Justice Stukes has

inflicted a "terrific loss" on South Carolina's judiciary.

"The wisdom of his decisions, the charity of his heart, and the spirit of Christianity in his every action shall live forever as a monument to this great and important leader and gentleman."

Serving as active pallbearers were nephews of the jurist. Among the many honorary pall-

bearers were members of the Manning Presbyterian Church Session and the associate justices of the State Supreme Court.

Justice Stukes was elected to the Supreme Court in 1940. In 1956 he was elected chief justice.

He began a career as a legislator when he was elected to the House in 1923, rising to the post of speaker pro-tem of that body in 1925.

He served as state senator from Clarendon County from 1927 until being elevated to the Supreme Court.

At one time he was chairman of the State Executive Committee of the Democratic Party.

A native of Manning, Justice Stukes received his A. B. degree from Washington and Lee University in 1915. In 1919 he graduated with honors from George Washington Law School in Washington, D. C.

In World War I he served as a first lieutenant in the Air Force of the European Theater.

Mrs. Stukes is the former Miss Georgie Sauls of Manning. Surviving besides the widow are a son, J. T. Stukes of Columbia; a daughter, Mrs. Steve Skardon of New Orleans; two brothers, Dr. Lionel Stukes and Gary Stukes, both of Atlanta; a sister, Mrs. John Burgess of Atlanta.

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Charlotte Obs: February 21, 1961

Mr. Justice Stukes

Taylor H. Stukes brought strength, fidelity, ability and high character to the South Carolina judiciary. He also set a sterling example of citizenship, of that caliber upon which the best in the fabric of our state is constructed. His death is a genuine loss.

Chief Justice Stukes was considerably more than an exceedingly able jurist. His scholarship went beyond the law and devotedly into the background of his state in which he entertained a particular interest. He was an authority on much of the past of the state.

As a member of the State Senate, prior to his elevation to the Supreme

Court, he was one of the most serviceable of senators. He was chairman of the Senate Committee on Highways during that era when highway building was of such import and when the pressures for roads was enormous. It was, therefore, an era of controversy over the operations of a Highway Department always under heavy demands.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Highways, Senator Stukes was a moderating and constructive influence at that time when such an influence was needed. In this and in other matters before the Senate he disclosed the judicial mind and temperament which later were appropriately and valuably to express themselves on the state's appellate

court.

As a man, Justice Stukes exemplified his staunch Presbyterianism in his belief in the tried-and-true virtues to which more Americans might constructively adhere in these times.

The court and the state will miss the services of a man of quiet and scholarly power.

THE STATE—
February 21, 1961



SERVICES HELD FOR JUSTICE STUKES

Funeral services for Chief Justice Taylor H. Stukes of the South Carolina Supreme Court were conducted Tuesday at Manning. Justice Stukes, 67, died Monday. Attending services were hundreds of friends, legislative leaders, fellow jurists and state officials from throughout South Carolina. Top photo shows active pallbearers, nephews of the widely-respected jurist, removing the bier from Justice Stukes' home; below, the procession passes through part of the large crowd attending services in Manning Presbyterian Church. (Staff Photos)

THE STATE—February 22, 1961