



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

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Dedication Ceremony for the Judge D' Army Bailey Courthouse

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and the Shelby County Commission will host a dedication ceremony this week that will name the Shelby County Courthouse in honor of Judge D' Army Bailey. Judge Bailey died this past July at the age of 73.

“Judge Bailey’s dedication to the law was second only to his support of civil rights. His work as a civil rights advocate is known throughout the world. I, along with the Shelby County Commission, take great pride to name the Shelby County Courthouse for him as a lasting tribute for his service to others,” said Mayor Luttrell.

The ceremony will be held on Friday, September 25th, 1 p.m., at the courthouse, 140 Adams Avenue. Speakers will include Mayor Luttrell, Shelby County Commission Chairman Terry Roland, Judge Bailey’s brother, Shelby County Commissioner Walter Bailey, and Justin Bailey, Judge Bailey’s oldest son.

Judge Bailey was first elected a circuit court judge in 1990 and retired in 2009. In 2014, he was reelected to the Third Division of Shelby County Circuit Court where he served at the time of his death on July 12th.

A graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, he received his B.A. from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

His civil rights legacy began in the 1960s. He took part in historic marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in 1982, led the effort to buy the Lorraine Motel, the place where Dr. King was assassinated on April 4th, 1968.

His civil rights accomplishments culminated in 1991 when the former motel was turned into the National Civil Rights Museum which was renovated and re-opened last year.

(End of Release)