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MR. JUSTICE MURPHY

Fred M. Vinson

Chief Justice of the United States

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MR. JUSTICE MURPHY

I count it a rare privilege to have known Frank Murphy. Gentle, kindly, and amiable of temperament, yet he had a strength of character and tenacity of purpose that enabled him to uphold the right, as God gave him to see the right, no matter what the pressures and constraints. His untimely death deeply touched the hearts of all who knew him, while the poor, the underprivileged, the accused, and minorities of many different shades of belief mourned the passing of one who had been their protagonist.

His was a democratic faith — that this nation or any nation can survive as a democracy only as long as it recognizes and protects individual freedom of thought and expression from any encroachments, and that that is Government's most sacred obligation.

While history alone can fully evaluate Justice Murphy's contribution to our national heritage, as one who shared with him the fellowship of the bench and the conference room, I feel that I may say that he immeasurably enriched the work of the Supreme Court—that he was honest in his judgments, industrious in his efforts, true to his ideals, and loyal to his Court.

Fred M. Vinson
Chief Justice of the United States