

**The Family of Edward Preston Grissom**  
Chesapeake, VA

**City Council of the City of Chesapeake**

Mayor Rick W. West  
Vice Mayor Dr. John de Triquet  
Councilman R. Stephen Best, Sr.  
Councilman Don J. Carey III  
Councilman Matthew R. "Matt" Hamel  
Councilman Robert C. Ike, Jr.  
Councilwoman S.Z. "Debbie" Ritter  
Councilwoman Susan R. Vitale  
Councilwoman Dr. Ella Ward

May 8, 2021

Dear Mayor Rick West,

I'm writing on behalf of my myself and the members of the family of Edward Preston Grissom. We greatly appreciate and we are deeply honored by the way the City Council recognized his years of service to the City of Chesapeake in the resolution which was passed October 8, 2019. We thank you very much. My mother was touched and we consider the Council's public statements an appropriate and respectful display of the City's appreciation for my father's life service.

Upon deeper reflection we respectfully request that the City Council would reconsider and not follow through with its resolution.

The Council's resolution highlights regarding Judge Grissom, that "he worked tirelessly to improve the court system and its ability to address the needs of families and children." Truthfully, he was very thankful for the opportunity to serve as a judge for the City of Chesapeake. He considered it an honor to be able to help bring families together when possible and to ensure young people received assistance and protection they needed. He considered it a duty that everyone was treated fairly under the law.

My father was a humble man. He was as active behind the scenes as he was while sitting on the bench, often taking phone calls at home and doing what he could to help those with questions or who were facing difficulties. He also had great respect for the judges that presided with him and those that sat on the bench before him. For all of us who knew him personally, he would not want his name to be lifted above those of his colleagues past or present, nor those in the future.

Respectfully, we would further request that in the spirit of Judge Grissom's service and in light of the remarkable contributions made by other judges past and present, that the City of Chesapeake would not name The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Building, or any other court building in the City of Chesapeake in honor of a person. We trust that there are many means by which judges could be honored that would not appear to place one judge above another.

Thank you for your consideration. Please know that in no way does our request diminish our gratitude for the Council's desire to highlight the value of Judge Grissom's contributions to the City of Chesapeake.

With our sincere gratitude and respect,



Edward P. Grissom, Jr. and the Grissom family