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09/02/2004 at 12:39 PM, BOB INZER, CLERK OF COURTS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 75-19

August 14, 1975

RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LEON CO. FLA
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AT THE TIME DATE NOTED
PAUL F. HARRIS FIELD
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

RE: Thirtieth Anniversary of Issuance of Commission to Honorable Hugh M. Taylor as Circuit Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida

1. According to footnote number 1 appearing at page III of Volume 146 of Florida Reports, Honorable Hugh M. Taylor was issued a commission as a Circuit Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit on August 14, 1945. Thus, this August 14, 1975 marks the thirtieth anniversary of Judge Taylor's commencement as a judge of this Court. The members of the Bar who have practiced before him, his fellow judges, the support personnel in the judicial system, and his many other friends extend to him congratulations and express gratitude for three decades of outstanding service as a trial judge and on many occasions as an appellate judge on our Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal. We rejoice that he continues to serve in these capacities and look forward to many years of continued association with him in processing the business and responsibilities of the circuit.

2. To detail the many honors and achievements of Judge Taylor would be an endless list, but it is appropriate to mention that in addition to his judicial services he was a distinguished member of the House of Representatives from Gadsden County in 1931 and was a member of the Constitutional Revision Commission which drafted the substance of our 1968 State Constitution. He has been an active member of the Quincy Exchange Club for many years. For perhaps time beyond his own memory he has been a devoted and devout member of the Centenary United Methodist Church (formerly Methodist Episcopal Church and before that Methodist Episcopal Church, South). He has served on its official board and for many years has taught an adult Sunday School class which is broadcast over the local radio station.

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3. As a practicing attorney he was a reliable counselor, a formidable trial lawyer and was exceedingly able in oral and written argument which revealed thorough research and illuminating logic pertinent to his client and his cause. Though his advocacy was vigorous at all times, his courtesy to opposing counsel was unfailing. Always striving to advance his client's interest, he never ceased to be an officer of the court or to honor the bounds of propriety and dignity.

4. As a judge he brought great scholarship to the bench, but his academic brilliance never obscured the basic justice and human compassion which must always be a part of the judgments of our courts. Now he is the senior judge of our circuit. To each of his junior colleagues he has been a great mentor and has been generous in giving his counsel and consultation when we have sought his reaction to matters before us which we find particularly perplexing. Whatever may be the regard in which each of us may be held, we are all better than we would have been because of Judge Taylor's example and influence.

5. Judge Taylor is the fourth circuit judge of this circuit resident in Gadsden County. His predecessors were the Honorable Pleasant W. White (1869-1879); Honorable John W. Malone (1891-1915); and Honorable E. C. Love (1915-1945). Each of these men was an outstanding lawyer and judge and each made indelible impressions in the life and government of this state. Others who served as circuit judge prior to Judge Taylor were Honorable William Archer Cocke (1868-69); Honorable David S. Walker (1879-1891); and Honorable John B. Johnson (1927-1940). These men also are identified as being strong and forthright jurists who brought great respect to the trial bench of the circuit. Though all of these were men of great stature and high regard, none of them stand taller as a man, jurist or statesman than Hugh Moor Taylor.

6. We all particularly rejoice that Judge Taylor is still a very active, vigorous and clearly audible voice in the work of the

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circuit. Since the restructuring of the trial court system by 1972 amendments to Article V of our constitution, he has served as the Administrative Judge of the Gadsden-Liberty Section and the sole judge primarily assigned to that section. He has thus had the full responsibility of all cases in the circuit courts of both Gadsden and Liberty Counties. This includes the trial of criminal, probate, juvenile and civil cases in both counties, as well as administration responsibilities of considerable magnitude. His performance in this regard has been exemplary. In addition, he has borne a significant load in the civil division of Leon County, including all cases involving insurance company receivorships, an area in which he has more expertise and experience than any one else in the state.

7. We pause in midstream to make note of three decades of dedicated and devoted service and we also celebrate the commencement of the fourth decade with more of the same. Judge Taylor's fellow judges recognize him not so much as the patriarch of the second circuit realm, but as a congenial, alert, vigorous and thoroughly delightful colleague whose profound wisdom is always accompanied by a lively, invigorating sense of humor and a zest for meeting and mastering the needs of the day. His personality is dynamic and constructive and our future is brighter because he continues to apply his great strength of mind and character to the work of the Second Judicial Circuit.

8. In summation, recognition is made of our great senior judge who is all the best that is embodied in the red-blooded American, the Christian gentleman, and who is truly one of God's noblemen.

9. A signed copy of this Order shall be filed with the Clerk of each county in the circuit and shall be set forth in the appropriate records of the circuit court of each of said counties.

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DONE and ORDERED at Quincy, Florida, in the SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, this 14th day of August, A.D. 1975.

Ben C. Willis

BEN C. WILLIS, CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All Clerks of Circuit Court
of the Second Judicial Circuit

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LEON COUNTY
GWEN MARSHALL
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