

Nominator says, “Mr. Pierce exemplified character, sacrifice and duty to country and community, and was proud to be a graduate of Murphy High School....”

Donald Pierce entered Murphy in the fall 1944 and graduated in 1947. While there, he served as a monitor and was a member of the D.O. Club.

After graduation, he enlisted in the US Army and was deployed to Korea, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. Upon his honorable discharge and return, he enrolled in the University of Alabama, and then in the University of Alabama Law School, graduating at the top of his class in 1957 and earning membership in the Order of the Coif, a law honorary society reserved for the top 10% of law school graduates. Peirce clerked for the Federal Court of the Southern District of Alabama and began practicing law in Mobile in 1958. He was a highly-respected trial attorney, known for his passion and dedication to his clients and as a tireless advocate for fairness in the civil justice system. He was a prolific writer, speaker and leader in numerous organizations dedicated to the defense of civil matters.

He served the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association as its President in 1975-76, the International Association of Defense Counsel, as the Director of its Trial Academy from 1983-84 and the Defense Research Institute, as its President and Chairman from 1987-88. He was a founding member of Lawyers for Civil Justice, and a member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, Trial Attorneys of America, and the Products Liability Advisory Committee. He was ranked by his peers at the highest level of professional excellence and was listed in the Best Lawyers in America, Who’s Who in the World. Donald received the Defense Research Institute’s Louis B. Potter Lifetime Professional Service Award “given to a nominee who exemplifies both professional service and professionalism.” As recently as March 2015, he was cited as a mentor and role model to young lawyers in an article by the incoming president of the DRI.

In addition to his family and the law, Mr. Pierce loved his church, serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher for many years at Spring Hill Baptist Church. He also served the larger community through his membership on non-profit boards of directors including America’s Junior Miss, Doctors Hospital, UMS-Wright, St. Luke’s Episcopal, and the Vanderbilt Cancer Center.

“Murphy can be proud to call Don Pierce a native son who did well for country and community.”