

Judge Soper had a distinguished legal career in the State of Maryland, which covered a period of nearly seventy years.

Morris A. Soper was born in Baltimore in 1873. He was educated in Baltimore schools, attended Baltimore City College, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in the year 1895.

Judge Soper's career was built in and around the State of Maryland. In 1897 he became Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore City. In 1900 he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland. In 1914 he was named Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. In 1923 he became United States District Judge for Maryland, and in 1931 he was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. He remained at this post until his death except that for a number of years he had been in "qualified retirement."

Morris A. Soper was a distinguished jurist. He was universally admired and respected. Judge Emory H. Niles once observed of Judge Soper that he had "come closer than any other judge to success with dealing with the recurring problem of how to reconcile changing conditions with basic principles." Judge Soper was a man of outstanding intellect and of broad social vision.

For more than thirty years he served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Morgan State College. He also for years was a member of the Board of Trustees of Goucher College. During the 1930's he was Chairman of the State Commission on Higher Education for Negroes. He had during his long career impressive physical and verbal vigor, being extremely active and apparently tireless. He was in much demand as a speaker and toastmaster.

In his passing the State of Maryland and the entire federal judiciary has lost a truly outstanding and monumental figure; now, therefore be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the deepest regrets of this body be expressed over the passing of Judge Morris A. Soper; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Secretary of State of Maryland be directed to send copies of this Resolution under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland to the surviving family of the late Judge Soper, the Attorney General of the United States, and the President of Morgan State College.*

Approved May 6, 1963.

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No. 51

(Senate Joint Resolution 10)

Senate Joint Resolution to request the State Roads Commission to repair and to maintain a bulkhead in the Town of Chesapeake Beach running along the Chesapeake Bay.