

NOTICE

The Court will meet in special session on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. to honor the memory of former Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Judge Perry sat as a judge on the United States Court of Military Appeals from February 18, 1976 to September 22, 1979.

Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal of the South Carolina Supreme Court will be the keynote speaker at the special session.

Judge Perry was born in Columbia, South Carolina in 1921, and served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946. He received his bachelor's and law degrees from South Carolina State College (now South Carolina State University).

After practicing law for 25 years, Judge Perry was nominated to the United States Court of Military Appeals by President Gerald Ford, where Judge Perry sat as a judge for more than three years. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated him as a Judge of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, where he served until his retirement in 1995. Judge Perry was South Carolina's first African-American federal district court judge. The federal courthouse in Columbia, South Carolina is named after him.

Judge Perry died at the age of 89. He is remembered fondly by all who knew him, as stated by Congressman James Clyburn of South Carolina, "America has lost one of its greatest legal minds and a stalwart of the civil rights movement. I have lost a mentor and a dear friend."

Judge Perry is survived by his wife Hallie and his son, Michael.

The special session is open to the public. For further details, contact Barbara Burley at (202) 761-5207.