

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

IN THE MATTER OF THE RETIREMENT OF

LAWRENCE B. HAGEL

Before DAVIS, *Chief Judge*, and KASOLD, LANCE,
SCHOELEN, PIETSCH, BARTLEY, and GREENBERG, *Judges*.

ORDER

Lawrence B. Hagel was appointed as a Judge of the Court on December 15, 2003, and served as Chief Judge from August 7, 2015, until his retirement on October 7, 2016.

During these years, he played a vital role in advancing the development of this, the Nation's newest national judicial tribunal. He dedicated himself to maintaining the Court's integrity as a judicial body and to making others in the legal community aware of the Court's important work.

As the Court's seventh Chief Judge, Chief Judge Hagel concerned himself with the welfare of the Court's staff and the advancement of the Court's technical capabilities. He upgraded the Court's computing capability, making possible advancements in both audio and video communication. These advancements enable the Court's work to proceed in the event an emergency renders the Court's current facilities inoperative. Before becoming Chief Judge, he served on several Court committees where in each area he touched, his interest, encouragement, and efforts nurtured the seeds of improvement. Throughout his tenure on the bench, Chief Judge Hagel promoted the law school education initiative and continued to explore the feasibility of constructing a courthouse dedicated to the business of this Court. Throughout his years of service to this Court, Chief Judge Hagel contributed significantly the Court's jurisprudence, creating a legacy that will not fade.

Chief Judge Hagel has earned the highest respect of all who have been privileged to benefit from his leadership and dedication.

On consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Lawrence B. Hagel will take with him our gratitude for the years of outstanding service he has rendered to the Court, our admiration for his many accomplishments, the warmth of our continued friendship, and our best wishes.

DATED: October 10, 2016

PER CURIAM.