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C. William O'Neill

James A. Rhodes

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C. WILLIAM O'NEILL

*James A. Rhodes**

All Ohio was saddened by the untimely death of Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice C. William O'Neill. Here was a man who had left his mark in all branches of state government after an unparalleled career of public service.

No other Ohioan has occupied the top positions in all three branches of state government. He was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives when he was only twenty-two years of age and still a student at Marietta College. At the age of thirty he became the youngest Speaker of the House. At thirty-four he became the youngest Attorney General, and at forty he was elected Governor, the youngest in Ohio's history. He was elected a Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court four years later, at age forty-four.

I appointed him Chief Justice in 1970 because I believed he was a man of trust. He fulfilled that trust.

As the chief administrative officer of the entire court system in Ohio, he provided outstanding leadership. He did much to speed the administration of justice. As a result of his efforts, Ohio's courts are highly respected throughout the nation.

Chief Justice O'Neill's unique career has helped improve the lives of all Ohioans. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

* Governor of Ohio.