

IN MEMORIAM

ALEX F. SMITH

NOVEMBER 3, 1886-OCTOBER 13, 1969

We, the undersigned committee designated by the Shreveport Bar Association to prepare and submit a resolution to the memory of the late Alex F. Smith on this occasion, submit the following:

Alex F. Smith was born November 3, 1886 on a farm near Norwood in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. He was one of a family of six children. His early education included his attendance at the Centenary College of Louisiana located at Jackson, Louisiana. He later attended Louisiana State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1908.

Following his graduation from Louisiana State University, in order to secure funds to continue his education, Mr. Smith taught in the public school at Newellton, Louisiana. He then returned to study law at Louisiana State University, where he was president of his first-year class and valedictorian of his graduation class. He received his Bachelor of Law degree in 1915 and was admitted to practice. During his attendance of Law School he worked as a minute clerk in the Baton Rouge

District Court and also as a reporter for a Baton Rouge paper.

Soon after his graduation from Law School, World War I appeared on the horizon, and Mr. Smith entered the armed services. He served as an officer with the 130th Field Artillery in France.

At the time of his discharge from the armed services there was no demand for young Louisiana-trained lawyers, and Mr. Smith accepted a job with the San Francisco Examiner, where he worked until he came to Shreveport in 1920 and entered the private practice of law as an associate of Mr. J. S. Atkinson. This association continued until Mr. Atkinson entered the Legal Department of the Gulf Refining Company.

In 1921 Mr. Smith was married to Miss Sallie Hinton and two sons, Alex F. Smith, Jr. and Sam A. Smith, were born of this union.

Following the withdrawal of Mr. Atkinson from the private practice of law, Mr. Smith remained by himself until 1929 when he joined with Mr. Joseph H. Jackson to form the partnership of Jackson & Smith. This firm engaged in the general practice of law but was particularly well known and highly respected in the fields of oil and gas and insurance law. In 1937 Mr. Chas. L. Mayer became a member of the firm

which then became known as Jackson, Smith & Mayer. In December 1937 Mr. Smith responded to the urgent appeal of his good friend and former associate, Mr. J. S. Atkinson, and withdrew from private practice and joined Mr. Atkinson in the Law Department of Gulf Refining Company, where he remained until his retirement, December 31, 1955.

Upon retiring from the Law Department of Gulf Refining Company, Mr. Smith returned to private practice, joining his old associates, Joseph H. Jackson and Chas. L. Mayer, his two sons, Alex, Jr. and Sam, and Frank S. Kennedy to form the firm of Jackson, Smith, Mayer & Kennedy. After the dissolution of that firm in 1960 he continued his practice until his death on October 13, 1969 as the senior member of the firm of Mayer & Smith, consisting of Mr. Smith, Chas. L. Mayer, Paul R. Mayer, Alex F. Smith, Jr. and Sam A. Smith and their associate, Caldwell Roberts.

Notwithstanding his many years of service, his interest in the law and his devotion to his work never ceased. He was a constant fountain of knowledge to the members of his firm and to his many friends in the profession. Until a short time before his death he was always one of the first to arrive at his office and one of the last to leave.

Mr. Smith took an active part in the endeavors of his profession. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Shreveport Bar Association and served as president of the Shreveport Bar Association in 1931. For many years, up until his death, he served as a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute and was a member of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association as a representative of the Council in 1949 and 1950 and again in 1955 and 1956.

Recognizing his extensive knowledge of the law of oil and gas, he was appointed as a member of a committee established, at the request of the Louisiana State Bar Association, to study and clarify the mineral law of our state.

Mr. Smith was also called upon to serve on a number of other important committees, including the committee which undertook the revision of the Louisiana Statutes and the committee which revised our Code of Practice.

His outstanding ability as a lawyer and as a student of the law brought him the honor of being awarded the Order of the Coif in 1952.

Mr. Smith's interest was not confined to his

profession, but he also took an active part in many civic undertakings. His devotion to the betterment of his community and his fellow man was recognized by his election as president of the Community Fund of Shreveport and Caddo Parish in 1937. It was under his direction that the local Community Fund and the American Red Cross initially worked out arrangements for the combination of their campaigns.

He was a quiet and retiring man by nature and, although he was extremely interested in the welfare of his community, he never openly participated in politics. The nearest he came to this was when he directed the campaign of the late Sam S. Caldwell in his first hard fought and successful bid for the Mayor's office in Shreveport.

Mr. Smith was an ardent outdoorsman and an accomplished fisherman and hunter. He also enjoyed outdoor sports and was a great baseball and football fan.

As a lawyer he had the highest respect of all members of the judiciary, and his fellow lawyers recognized him as an able and resourceful adversary. He was always calm and thorough and practiced as a courteous and considerate gentleman regardless of the circumstances.

He filled his role as a husband and a father with the same devotion, consideration and understanding as

characterized his demeanor as a lawyer.

Notwithstanding the exacting demands and the many hours required of him by his profession, Mr. Smith found the time to read and study extensively in many other areas of interest. Until his dying day he was always capable of carrying on with his friends and acquaintances a most interesting and enlightening conversation in many areas of science, literature, religion, political science and others. He was indeed not only an educated man but a true scholar who kept himself abreast of the developments that had taken place over his long span of life.

Those friends and acquaintances of Mr. Smith who had the privilege and pleasure of going to him with their problems found him always to be a willing listener, regardless of the press of his affairs. No matter how busy he might be, he was always willing to listen patiently and in the end afford the desired counsel and advice.

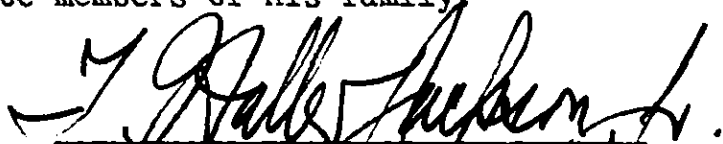
Mr. Smith is survived by his widow, Mrs. Sallie Hinton Smith, his two sons, Alex F. Smith, Jr. and Sam A. Smith, and a sister, Mrs. J. C. Ethridge, and several nieces and nephews.

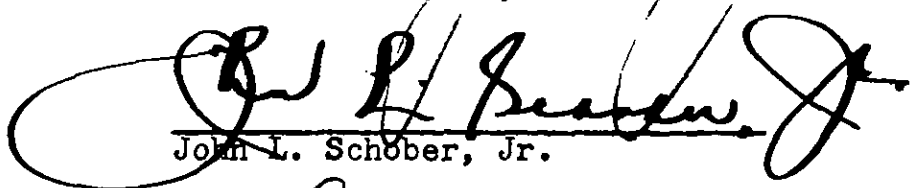
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we of the Shreveport Bar Association do hereby express our deep admiration and respect to the late Alex F. Smith and his

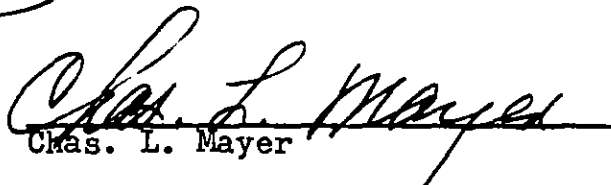
high ideals and standards of honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend to the members of his family our sincere and heartfelt sympathy and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Court as a final tribute to his service to his profession, his community, his state and his fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be delivered to the immediate members of his family.


T. Haller Jackson, Jr.


John L. Schober, Jr.


Chas. L. Mayer