

**MEMORIAL FOR  
ARMAND WEILLER ROOS, JR.  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES  
HELD IN THE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
NOVEMBER 4, 2004  
UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

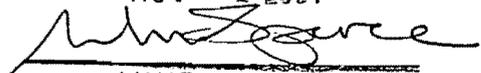
MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Armand Weiller Roos, Jr. was born on December 12, 1914, in Shreveport. He died at the age of 89, on January 29, 2004. At the risk of giving away Mr. Roos' health secrets, he often attributed his longevity to his strict regimen of sharing a daily martini with his beloved wife, Corinne. To state the obvious, this Memorial may not be as solemn as some you will hear today. Those of you who knew Mr. Roos will understand why. I will try to remember him as I think he would have wanted. Mr. Roos often told me to call him Armand, but I never made that transition. He was Mr. Roos when I met him in 1976 and he remains Mr. Roos to me.

Mr. Roos graduated from Byrd High School, attended Centenary College as an undergraduate and, in 1935, received his law degree from Tulane University. Following his graduation, Mr. Roos took the Bar Examination and passed. Despite this, he could not be sworn in. The Supreme Court required lawyers to be twenty-one years of age, which Mr. Roos, ever precocious, was not. After waiting a few months for his birthday to arrive, he was able to begin his practice as a sole practitioner. With an interruption only for World War II, during which he served our country as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Corps, Mr. Roos practiced law in Shreveport until his death. In 1975, Mr. Roos and his son, Armand L. Roos, started practicing together in the firm of Roos & Roos. Later, they both joined the firm which is now named Weems, Schimpf, Gilsoul, Haines and Carmouche, then they again formed Roos & Roos and practiced in that partnership until I joined them and we formed the firm of Roos & Frazier. Mr. Roos loved people and his practice allowed him to meet many people, rich and poor - that's why he loved the practice of law. As he would have chosen, Mr. Roos literally practiced law until his death. On the morning of January 29, 2004, he came to the office, nattily dressed and in fine spirits, as always.

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Mr. Roos is survived by his wife of 63 years, Corinne Lengsfeld Roos, his children, Lecie and Jack Resneck, Armand and Lynn Roos, and Connie and Donald Posner, and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his cousin and dear friend, Carroll Feist.

What a wonderful man. Mr. Roos had a permanent growl and absolutely no bite. He was gracious and helpful to all. It was a privilege to work with him and to have the opportunity to talk through problems with him. Whatever situation I encountered, he had seen it before. Mr. Roos has my particular gratitude for sharing his highly refined addendum to oil and gas leases. It may have been the bane of many oil companies but it was a bill of rights for landowners.

Mr. Roos gave back to his community. He was active in many organizations. He was a member of El Karubah Shriners, a Scottish Rite Mason, Past President of the Board of Governors of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, a member of the B'Nai Zion Temple Board of Directors, and Past President of the Shreveport Camellia Society. As for his love of camellias, no one who practiced with or near Mr. Roos will forget the lovely camellias he brought to the office daily. Something which brought him special joy was serving as the judge for the Jesters during their invitation ritual, an organization affiliated with the Shrine but with no other purpose than to have fun.

Those of you who knew Mr. Roos knew well his sense of humor and delightful grin.

Mr. Roos inspired loyalty and conducted a mean job interview. Anita Paddy vividly recalls her 1967 interview with him. He asked her two questions: "Can you spell?" She answered "yes." Then, he got more specific and said, "Spell cat." She got the answer right and was hired. Since then, Mrs. Paddy worked with Mr. Roos and now, Armand the younger.

Those of you who knew Mr. Roos only in his later years may be surprised to know that he was an adept softball player. It was softball which memorialized Mr. Roos in Southern Reporter and led to a landmark opinion by Judge Harmon C. Drew, our Judge Drew's grandfather, regarding the relative merits of lawyers and judges as witnesses as opposed to bankers as witnesses, a 1940 case which remains uncited to this day.

In the late 1930's, softball had become a popular recreation for the young business and professional men of Shreveport. Almost every profession and business establishment had a team.

Leagues were formed and games were played at what is now A.C. Steere Park. At least as of 1939, these games were played under the lights.

In this particular game, in which a team of lawyers and judges were playing a team of bankers, Mr. Roos was playing left field. At the crack of the bat, he was off after a fly ball. As the ball began to curve toward the left field foul line, so did Mr. Roos. In truth, there was no foul line. The problem was, some folks, obviously bankers, had parked their cars in left field, much to the surprise of Mr. Roos. At the moment Mr. Roos reached for the ball, he crashed into the front of the defendant's car and lost the better part of two front teeth. As an aside, Dr. Ratzburg, father of Fred Ratzburg, was the treating dentist. A suit was brought over the damages suffered by Mr. Roos. The issue in this case was whether or not the car was parked inside or outside the playing field. Judge Drew eloquently explained the obvious:

“The players who rushed to the scene of the accident immediately after it occurred are positive that defendant's car into which plaintiff crashed was extending nearly half its length into the playing field. A like number of witnesses, all bankers and employees of banks, are positive that the car was parked entirely outside of the playing field. The testimony given by the bankers and their witnesses is not as positive and convincing as that of the lawyers and judge who testified. This is no doubt due to the fact that lawyers are better trained to look for details when an accident occurs than bankers are.”

Therefore, the case of *Roos v Metropolitan Casualty Insurance Company of Newark, New Jersey* stands for the proposition that lawyers and judges make better witnesses than bankers. I think that's something of which a court could simply take judicial notice.

I will close with a story that I believe illustrates well the esteem in which his peers held Mr. Roos.

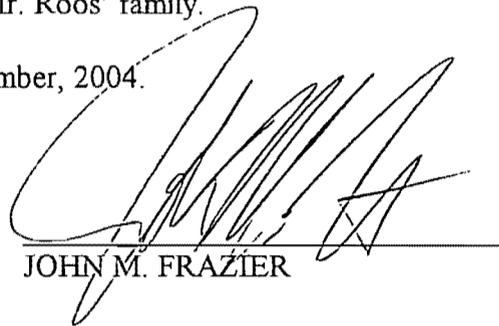
In a case in Federal Court before the late Judge Edwin Hunter, an out-of-town lawyer stood and made the claim that Mr. Roos had “slip-sheeted” a document. Mr. Roos had no idea what that meant and, I'll admit that when I heard the phrase, I had no idea either. It means that he was accused of changing pages of a document after the document had been signed. Back to the story, Mr. Roos had no idea of what he had been accused but he knew it wasn't good. As he stood to object, Judge Hunter looked at Mr. Roos and said “It's okay, Armand, I'll handle this.” Judge Hunter then turned

to the out-of-town lawyer and sternly said "Young man, I'm sure you wish to withdraw that claim, Armand Roos would never do that."

A good friend, a great lawyer, a wonderful father and grandfather, truly a sweet man. Armand Weiller Roos, Jr., we all miss him.

And now, your Honor, I move that this Memorial be spread on the Minutes of the First Judicial District Court and a copy be provided to Mr. Roos' family.

Respectfully submitted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004.



JOHN M. FRAZIER