

MEMORIAL FOR
CECIL E. RAMEY, JR.
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 28, 2009
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

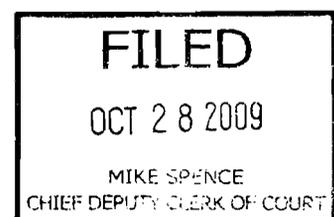
Cecil E. Ramey, Jr. was born on November 9, 1923 and passed away on April 8, 2009. A life-long resident of Shreveport, he was graduated from Fair Park in 1940 and received his B.S. summa cum laude from Centenary College in 1943. After his Air Force Service in WWII, he earned his Juris Doctor from Yale University Law School in 1949.

How does one do justice to the memory of a man like Cecil Ramey? Julie Payne's letter set a five minute limit. So, by that restriction, I have 300 ticks of the clock to say what I want to say and what my heart wants to say.

I first met Cecil when he came to the Hargrove Firm in 1954. I had just moved from the firm to a lower floor in the same building in solo practice. When I learned he was a Yale Law School product and had been teaching law at Tulane for five years, I shamelessly sought his advice on the esoterical language of the Internal Revenue Code sections on estate taxes. I learned early on how really smart he was . . . not just "book smart" but a brilliant advisor. All of Cecil's fifty-year legal practice career was at Hargrove, Guyton, Van Hook and Ramey transitioning to "of counsel" from 1989 to 2006. He was a lawyer's lawyer in his fields of expertise, mostly trusts, estates, taxes and the mineral code. When young lawyers encounter the Trust Code and the Mineral Code, you should know that Cecil Ramey was on the Advisory Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute for both of those codes.

Civic duties undertaken during Cecil's career were many and varied. He was President of the Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director of the Committee of 100 and a host of others simply too extensive to mention here. I have taken the liberty of attaching a copy of his published obituary for a complete list.

Cecil had only one small, bad, but amusing fault. Puns! The definition explains it all. "A mischievous play on words of the same sound but with different meanings." For many years, we ate lunch at the same table and one or more puns would regularly appear. The groans that followed were the only applause he needed.



There are only a very few of my acquaintances who can come close to matching Cecil's record of public service. One only needs to read his obituary to learn that he was a true leader in the advancement of the laws through the Louisiana Law Institute and various bar activities. Through his service in the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, Centenary College and other civic groups, he was a leader in the affairs of our city. His long years of service in the management side of The Broadmoor Methodist Church as a Trustee and as a Steward, and his twenty-eight years as a teacher of the Couples Class is yet another indication of dedicated service.

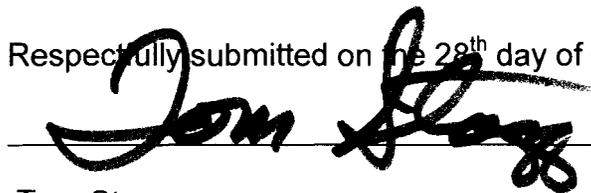
I frequently told him that he did his best day's work when he married Betty who was his loving partner for 63 years. Their children, Marty, Christine and Stephen (and the grandchildren, too) are each enriched by having had such an exemplary fellow as their male parental unit.

Memorials are not made solely from marble or granite. They can be as ephemeral as a passing thought that enriches the moment. John Donne, in his *Meditation*, wrote "any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind".

Because so many years of friendship and love existed, the passing of a close friend like Cecil causes all of us who were close to him to be especially diminished. We have lost an old friend who perfectly fits the Latin phrase "sui generis". None of us is likely to meet anyone remotely resembling this warm, loveable fellow hiding behind the mask of super-lawyer and public citizen. He is and will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, this memorial is submitted. I move that it be inscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court, and that appropriate copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on the 28th day of October, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Stagg", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Stagg

Ramey Jr., Cecil E.



Cecil E. Ramey, Jr.

SHREVEPORT, LA - Services celebrating the life of Cecil E. Ramey, Jr. will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 11, 2009, at Broadmoor United Methodist Church. Officiating will be Rev. Conrad Edwards. Interment will follow in Forest Park West Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday evening at Rose-Neath Marshall Street Funeral Home.

Cecil E. Ramey, Jr., much loved husband, brother, father, and grandfather, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, after a long and happy life. Son of a railroad man, he was a native Shreveporter, graduating from Fair Park High School in 1940 and receiving his B.S. degree summa cum laude from Centenary College in 1943. Following military service, he earned his Juris Doctor from Yale University Law School in 1949.

He went on to a distinguished legal and civic career. He was a professor at the Tulane University School of Law from 1950 through 1954. He became a partner in the firm of Hargrove, Guyton, Van Hook and Hargrove in 1956, and a named partner of Hargrove, Guyton, Van Hook and Ramey in 1963. He remained a valued member of the firm for 26 years, retiring to become "of counsel" from 1989 until 2006. He was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute for the preparation of the new Louisiana Trust Code, and was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute for the enactment of the Louisiana Mineral Code. He was also a part-time faculty member of Centenary College in the Frost School of Business, a former lecturer for the Committee of Continuing Legal Education of the Louisiana Bar Association, a former director of the Tulane Law School Program of Continuing Professional Education, a former member of the Board of the Tulane Tax Institute, a former member of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association and a former president of the Shreveport Bar Association.

He was named Shreveport's Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1956, and "Mr. Shreveport" in 1968. He was inducted into the Centenary Alumni Hall of Fame in 1970, and received the Clyde E. Fant Memorial Award for Community Service in 1979. He was a member of the Shreveport Downtown Development Authority, a past president of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, a former chairman of the Capital Improvements Study Committee of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, a former chairman of the Citizens Capital Improvements Committee of the City of Shreveport; and a past President of the Centenary College Alumni Association. He was a long-time member of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College and a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier. He was also a former Executive Director of the Committee of 100.

He was a member of Broadmoor United Methodist Church, serving as chairman of both its Board of Trustees and its Board of Stewards. He taught the Couples Class of that church for 28 years. He also served as a certified lay speaker with Karnack United Methodist Church in Karnack, Texas.

Frailty of the body refined his spirit and measured his character, revealing most vividly those guiding principles which had served him all his life: love of family, faith in God, and service to country and community. His faith was simple and true, distilled through the diligence of an able mind, an open heart, disciplined study and lengthy reflection. He loved his country and his community. Part of "the Greatest Generation", he flew in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and continuing up through the latest mayoral election, he was passionate about the future of Shreveport.

Above all, he loved Betty June Loper, his beloved wife and partner of 63 years. His most eloquent tributes, both public and private, were always reserved for her. He was a joyful, funny, and supportive father, a proud grandfather, and a constant friend. With all of his accomplishments (and they were many), his truest legacy is the love he shared with us and we with him.

Mr. Ramey is survived by his wife, Betty Loper Ramey; his sister, Lael Ramey Ellis; his daughter, Marty Ramey, and her husband, Gary Orkin; his daughter, Christine Ramey Cohen, and her husband, Robert Cohen; his son, Stephen E. Ramey; his grandchildren, Rachel and Joel Orkin-Ramey, and Jennifer, Katherine, and Max Cohen; his nephews, David and Scott Ellis, his niece, Laura Ellis Candler, and her daughter, Harper Ramey Candler.

Pallbearers will be R. J. Abney, Max Cohen, Scott Ellis, John Hayter, Jr., Joel Orkin-Ramey, Aaron Selber, Jr., Larry Shea and Judge Donald Walter. Honorary pallbearers will be Frank Moore, Judge Tom Stagg and Fletcher Thorne-Thompson.

The family would like to express their love and appreciation to Dr. Robert Hernandez and Laura Perkins, F.N.P.C.; also to Donna Lee, caregiver and friend.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Broadmoor United Methodist Church, Centenary College, or the charity of your choice. **Rose-Neath Funeral Home**

**Marshall Street Chapel
(318) 222-0348**