

IN MEMORIAM

DONALD LAVINE

OCTOBER 5, 1905 - JANUARY 4, 1970

Today we honor the memory of a friend. A man who, perhaps, did more for the advancement of his community and its people than any other one person in the recent past.

Donald Lavine departed this life January 4, 1970, having lived a little more than 64 years. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, October 5, 1905, as the only child of Harry and Lillian Moss Lavine. His mother died when he was very young and his father enrolled him in the Columbus Military Academy in Columbus, Ohio when he was only five years old. He was so small at the time that it was necessary to carve a wooden gun for him to use in his exercises.

He remained at the academy until the age of twelve, at which time his father came to see him and asked if he would like to come to Louisiana to live with him. The young lad had visions of bales of cotton stacked beside lazy rivers, warm weather, watermelons and no school. Much to his chagrin, however, he was enrolled in Centenary Academy the day after arriving in Shreveport.

While at Centenary Academy, he was a member of the Franklin Institute, was selected as the wittiest student and attended school with another member of the Shreveport Bar, Judge John Pleasant.

He returned north and received his liberal arts degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1928. While there he served as president of Tau Delta Phi.

After graduating from the university, he returned to Oil City and worked with his father for the next few years, during which time he studied law at Centenary College and, later,

enrolled at LSU Law School, from which he graduated and passed the bar examination in 1937. He began the practice of law, but interrupted his practice to serve a four year term as postmaster of Oil City. He then resumed his law practice, which he continued until his death this year.

He was married to Margaret Smith in 1939 and they were the parents of two daughters, Patricia Lavine Kennedy, who is a speech pathologist, and Donna Lavine, an elementary school teacher. They have one grandchild, Susan Elizabeth Kennedy.

Donald was elected mayor of Oil City in 1948 and served four consecutive terms for a period of sixteen years. During this period, he worked tirelessly for the advancement of his community. He was never too busy with his own work, or problems, to stop long enough to assist someone else with their problem, and most of the time there was no fee involved.

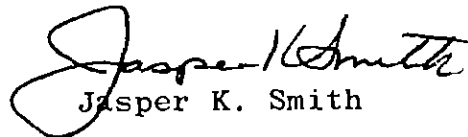
His various civic endeavors included work with the American Red Cross, Selective Service, Rotary Club, Civil Defense and North Caddo Historical Society. He was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club and was a member of the B'nai Zion Congregation of Shreveport.

His keen intellect, his ready wit and warm personality, made him a favorite with all who knew him. His death is a real loss to his family and friends and to his profession. He left his community a better place to live, because he lived.

We are reminded of the funeral oration pronounced by Rabbi David Lefkowitz on that cold, raw, day in January as he reminded us that the Jewish people consider God as a member of the family, to be loved, respected and treated as such. What better epitaph can be inscribed to adequately express the life and contribution of our departed colleague than to paraphrase this statement of the Rabbi. In the mind and memory of all who knew him, Donald Lavine will always be a member of the family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, hereby express the admiration and regard in which we held Donald Lavine, for his character and ability, his industry and skill, and his exemplification of the advocate and counselor at his best; and we extend to his family our sincere sympathy in their loss.

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial and resolution be made a part of the records of this Court and that copies of the record hereof be delivered to the members of the family of our departed brother and friend.


Jasper K. Smith


Horace M. Bickham, Jr.


John W. Ballard, Chairman

Shreveport, Louisiana

September 1, 1970.