

**FILED**

OCT 24 2003

*Dianne Doughty*  
DIANNE DOUGHTY  
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Memorial for E. Daniel Burt, Jr.  
Presented at the Memorial in Recognition Ceremony  
Held in the First Judicial District Court  
October 24, 2003  
Under the Auspices of the  
Shreveport Bar Association

E. Daniel Burt, Jr. was born on September 29, 1948 and died on January 23, 2003 at the young age of 54. He was a 1966 graduate of Bossier High School and was an outstanding member of the football team at Bossier High. He attended Louisiana Tech for one year where he was a member of the football team. He transferred to LSU in Baton Rouge and received a degree in Industrial Management in 1970. He was married in 1970 to Jo Lynn Burt and they had two children, Christopher Mark Burt and Jessica Lynn Burt Jayroe. Dan then attended Colorado State University and received an MBA degree in 1971.

After Colorado State Dan entered the Air Force and served eight years in the Air Force as a captain and navigator of a KC35, during which time he served in the Vietnam Conflict.

Upon leaving the Air Force Dan attended LSU Law School and graduated in 1982. Dan was a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif. For two years Dan was a law clerk for Judge Tom Stagg. For three years Dan practiced law with me. On a personal note, it was a real pleasure to have practiced law with Dan. He was very enthusiastic and worked hard to give his clients the best representation. I was involved almost one-hundred percent in personal injury law and over-time Dan's interests turned to criminal defense.

Dan opened his own office in 1988 and primarily practiced criminal defense law until April of 1994 when he became a Federal Public Defender. Dan worked as a Federal Public Defender from 1994 until October of 2001. Judge Tom Stagg, speaking at Dan's funeral, said of his work as a defense attorney:

"As a defense lawyer, and later as a federal public defender, Dan Burt found his niche. His advice and counsel to his fellow lawyers was encyclopedic. It was quite evident that Dan, as a teacher, has influenced a whole generation of younger defense counsel and our system of justice is better for it. He was an excellent judge of character and could see good in a person that others could not or would not see. Particularly, this was true of the people he was charged with defending."

In October of 2001 he left the practice of law and became the manager of the Harley Davidson shop in Bossier City, which is what he was doing at the time of his untimely death in January of 2003. At that time he was engaged to be married to Donna Thompson.

Professionally, Dan was a charter member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Lawyers, and a member of the National Association of Defense Lawyers. In addition, Dan was very active in the ACLU and served a term as president.

Often the measure of a man's life is what he stood for in life. Judge Tom Stagg, speaking at Dan's funeral, said:

"Dan was straight to the point. He held strong views and we had some great debates. When it came to political philosophy his and mine were 180 degrees apart. When he left, nothing had changed."

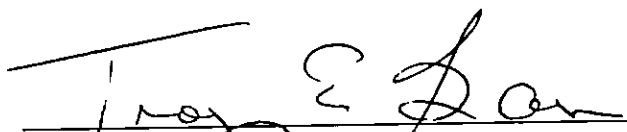
One example of what Dan stood for was involvement with the ACLU, an organization that is not exactly popular, but performs a vital service to our society. Another example of what Dan stood for is when he stood up for his daughter when she was a basketball player at Airline High School. The girls basketball team had completely inadequate locker room facilities while the boys team had excellent facilities. Dan filed a title 9 suit in Federal court and the Bossier Parish School Board entered into a consent decree that provided equal facilities for the girls basketball team and equal opportunities for girls in all sports.

A final example may be Dan's decision to leave the practice of law. I can't speak to the exact reasons that led to this decision, but I know that one of them was

his frustration with a system that included sentencing guidelines that left the Judge with little discretion to consider Dan's clients on their merits and qualities. Given Dan's commitment to his clients I believe that to him it was unconscionable for people in Washington to create rigid rules that controlled his clients' lives and no matter what the merits of their position there was little Dan could do to see that his clients received justice.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association I submit this memorial to the memory of Dan Burt, and move that it be filed in the records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and that copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 24th day of October, 2002.



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