

**MEMORIAL
HUGH MILLING STEPHENS
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 30, 2001
UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

HUGH MILLING STEPHENS was born January 12, 1915. He died May 11, 2001, after 86 full and eventful years.

Hugh grew up in Shreveport on Stoner Avenue, graduating from Byrd High School in 1932 and from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1934. He attended Centenary College graduating in 1936 and graduated from the LSU Law School in 1939.

He was admitted to the practice of law in 1939 and was an active attorney for over 60 years, which accomplishment was recognized by the State Bar Association.

Active is a good word to use to describe Hugh Stephens. He was active in whatever he did. He played tennis beginning as a boy at Princess Park here in Shreveport and he continued playing tennis throughout his adult life. I will admit that Hugh had slowed down in the last few years and only played three times a week.

Hugh was a runner and participated in 5K and 10K races until he was well into senior status.

Of course Hugh won city and state titles in tennis and in running because Hugh excelled at whatever he did. He excelled at Centenary and won the state oratorical contest. He excelled at LSU Law School where he won the Moot Court competition.

He was an excellent attorney, respected by his fellow members of the bar and respected by his clients. His accomplishments were recognized in 1987 when he was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame.

Some of you may remember Hugh's father, J. H. Stephens, who was a Judge on this Court in the 1930s. The stories that Hugh would share about his father indicate that he may have inherited from Judge Stephens the rare gift of judicial temperament; that rare blend of wisdom, humor and humanity which makes some people so memorable.

Hugh's middle name was Milling, and one day I asked him if he was any kin to the Milling Benson Law Firm in New Orleans. He said that Milling was in fact a relative and that in fact he had considered moving to New Orleans to practice law with his cousins. Hugh sometimes wondered what his life would have been like if he had made that move. I can tell you that such a move would have been a loss to the Shreveport Bar and would have been a marked improvement to the quality of the New Orleans Bar.

Hugh did not particularly enjoy litigation, preferring to resolve matters outside the courtroom. I did check the reported cases and found a case that Hugh handled with Mr. Harry A. Johnson and a second case in which Hugh was opposed by Mr. Charles L. Mayer. I had the pleasure of dealing both with Harry Johnson and Charles Mayer and would readily include Hugh Stephens in that distinguished company.

Of course, some things were easy for Hugh. For example, the morning coffee game on Milam Street. Many of you will remember the one-armed joint or Big Ernie's and later Pano's. It was easy for the other coffee game players to somehow, without election, appoint Hugh to hold the money and run the game.

It was easy for Hugh to deal with people from all walks of life. His client could be a multimillionaire oilman or a country person with no money at all. Whoever they might be, and whatever legal problem they might have, they trusted Hugh to take care of it for them, and he did so with devotion.

Devotion is another word that describes Hugh. He was devoted to his Country. He enlisted and served four years in the Navy during World War II. He easily moved to a position of authority as a naval officer and was discharged in 1946 as a Lieutenant Commander.

Hugh was devoted to his family. He actively and easily and devotedly loved his first wife Jane for 20 years until her death. His second wife Shirley later became the center of his devotion for 25 years until her death last year.

His sons Steve and David and his daughter Carol could always count on their father if they ever needed anything. They never would doubt his devotion to them.

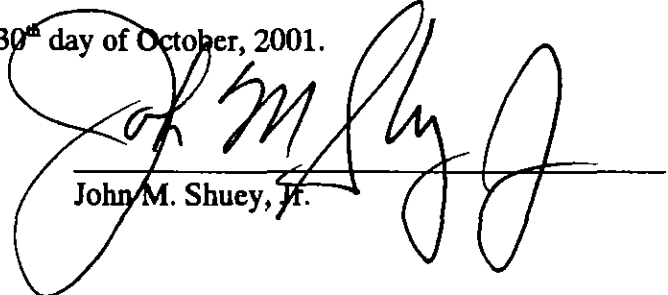
Polly Stephens, his secretary for almost twenty years, could always count on Hugh, just as Hugh could always count on Polly.

I know that Shirley was a devoted Methodist and Hugh was too. Of course, being good Methodists meant it was easy to spot Hugh and Shirley on a Sunday morning because, being good Methodists, they always sat in the same spot on the same pew. Hugh and Shirley did so each Sunday in the balcony of the First Methodist Church.

Hugh's life was an example to us, as members of the Bar Association, both in the practice of law, and in those other qualities which make up excellence in life.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this memorial to Hugh Milling Stephens be inscribed in the Records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that certified copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October, 2001.



John M. Shuey, Jr.