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*E. H. Shetye*  
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SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

Resolution in Memory of John Ruffin Pleasant  
September 12, 1905 - July 29, 1983

Presented to the First Judicial District Court  
in and for Caddo Parish, Louisiana

WHEREAS, our beloved colleague, Judge John Ruffin Pleasant, died July 29, 1983, at Shreveport, Louisiana, after a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and judge;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, his associates at the Bar, wish to record this memorial to our friend and fellow lawyer in the permanent records of this Court.

Judge Pleasant was born at Bernice, Louisiana, and moved with his family to Shreveport where he graduated from Shreveport High School in 1923. That same year he entered LSU at Baton Rouge and was President of his freshman class and a member of the undergraduate honorary scholastic fraternity. He received his LL.B. degree from LSU in 1928 and assisted with the expense of his education by working at what is now the Exxon Refinery at Baton Rouge.

He began his practice at Shreveport and from 1930 to 1938 was Assistant District Attorney for Caddo Parish. In 1938 he was elected Judge of the First Judicial District Court at the age of 32, one of the youngest, if not the youngest, person ever elected to this court. Although exempt from military duty because of his office, he took a leave of absence from the bench and volunteered for active duty with the United States Navy during World War II. He served as a lieutenant in the South Pacific where he was awarded the bronze star for meritorious service to his country. When Judge Pleasant's second term on the bench expired at the end of 1946, he entered the private practice of law in 1947 as a partner in the firm of Garrett and Pleasant. In 1954 he became a partner in Booth, Lockard, Jack and Pleasant and its successor firms until 1979. At the time of his death

he was practicing alone but also served Of Counsel to the firm of Sockrider & Bolin.

He served his profession in many capacities, only some of which are enumerated here. For the Louisiana State Law Institute he served as adviser in the preparation of the Criminal Code of 1942, which was the first major project of the recently-organized Law Institute. Later he served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure adopted in 1960 and he also worked on the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure and the proposed 1954 revision of the judiciary article of the Constitution of 1921. In all of these law reform projects he donated many days and months of his time and served without compensation. His vast experience as a judge and as an able trial counsel made him uniquely qualified to undertake these responsibilities. At the time of his death, he was serving as a senior officer of the Law Institute.

He was active in bar groups of which he was a member. He was elected President of the Shreveport Bar Association in 1947-48 and President of the Louisiana State Bar Association in 1966-67. For a number of terms he served on the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association and on many of its committees. He served on the Louisiana Supreme Court Bar Examining Committee for eight years writing the questions and grading the papers for the Criminal Law and Procedure examination twice each year. He also served on the Board of Regents of the American College of Probate Counsel.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Shreveport, having served on its Administrative Board since 1937 and he was serving as a Life Member at the time of his death. He also served on its Board of Trustees and was Chairman from 1972 to 1978.

He enjoyed sports and played golf whenever he had an opportunity. For many years he played baseball on the Shreveport Bar

Association teams. He always followed the rules of the game and because of his wit, humor and skill, his companionship was always sought by the other participants.

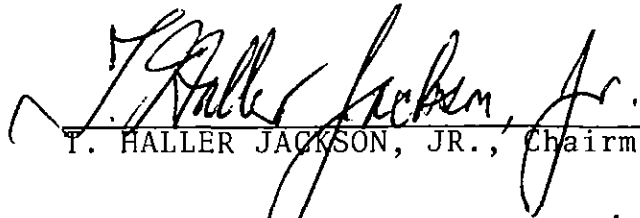
Judge Pleasant was a devoted husband and father. His love for his family members was reflected in the quality of their own lives.

His love and concern for family and close friends did not stop with this inner circle. His concern for his fellow Americans and a sense of obligation to them caused Judge Pleasant to volunteer for active duty in World War II with a severe financial loss as well as the risk of his life. He noted that other men his age were not exempt from service as he was and he acted on his belief that he should serve with them. This same sense of obligation prompted his response when the Caddo Parish School Board asked him to represent the Board in the serious and unsettling litigation which befell it and other school boards elsewhere in the 1960's. His vast legal experience, sound judgment and absolute integrity enabled him to render superior service, not only to the school system and the students and their families but also to the community at large. His kindness, humility, good humor and wit and a lifetime of unselfish and honorable conduct enabled him to assist the entire community to make the required constitutional changes without the bitterness and strife which occurred elsewhere. These examples of service were only two of many.

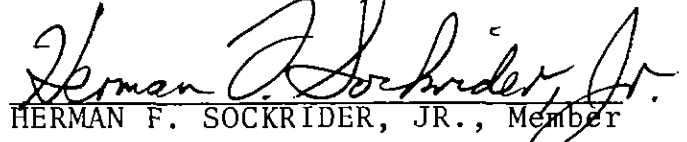
We shall always remember Judge Pleasant with grateful hearts for his great and unselfish work and his noble character. We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Margaret Noble Pleasant, and his daughter, Mrs. Ann Pleasant Marshall, and his son, Dr. John Ruffin Pleasant, Jr., and also his seven grandchildren.

BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be inscribed permanently in the judicial records of this Court and that a copy be given to the members of Judge Pleasant's family. Thus done

and signed this 31st day of October, 1983, by the committee  
preparing this resolution.

  
T. HALLER JACKSON, JR., Chairman

  
LEONARD L. LOCKARD, Member

  
HERMAN F. SOCKRIDER, JR., Member