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SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

Memorial to Joseph William Milner

October 30, 1989

Joseph William Milner was born in Roanoke, Virginia on September 14, 1933. He died at his home in Shreveport on June 21, 1989. He is survived by his wife, Billye Moore Milner, three sons, Dr. Joseph W. Milner, Jr., Michael S. Milner and Martin C. Milner, all of Shreveport; his mother Mrs. Helen S. Demmary, a sister, Jean Milner Bouware, both of Monroe; and nieces and nephews in Monroe, Bastrop and Oak Grove.

Joe Milner moved to Louisiana while he was a boy, graduated from high school in Monroe, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955 from Northeast Louisiana State University. After a tour of military duty he enrolled at the Louisiana State University Law School, which awarded him the J.D. degree with honors in 1960. He distinguished himself at the Law School as associate editor of the Louisiana Law Review and was named a member of the Order of the Coif for his scholastic achievements. Later, he was among the first group of inductees when the LSU Law School Hall of Fame was established in 1987.

Upon his graduation from law school, Joe joined the firm of Blanchard, Goldstein, Walker and O'Quin, which later became Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, and actively practiced with that firm until his death. He participated in many local bar association matters and was a member of the American Judicature Society, the American Association of Trial Lawyers, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and Louisiana Bank Counsel Association. He was a past president of the Shreveport Legal Services Corporation, a bar-sponsored organization which pioneered the concept of prepaid legal insurance. He was a long-term member and had served as President of the Caddo Parish Indigent Defender Board, the agency responsible for providing counsel for criminal defendants financially unable to engage lawyers of their choice. He lectured on many occasions before church, civic and business groups on the subject of wills and estates. His skill as a lawyer was recognized by his fellow local lawyers

by his inclusion in the current issue of the publication "The Best Lawyers in America."

In 1987, Joe conducted videotaped interviews with a number of senior members of the Shreveport Bar Association to record an oral history of the practice of law in Shreveport over the last half century or more. These tapes, which are on file in the archives of the Shreveport Bar Association, are the fruits of one of the most interesting and informative projects undertaken by the local bar. Joe brought to the project his skill as a public speaker and former radio announcer and newscaster, his friendship with the lawyers interviewed, and his deep interest in the history of the local bar.

Joe Milner was active in local church and civic affairs. He was past President of the Board of Deacons of the Broadmoor Baptist Church, was chairman of the Youth Ushers for many years, and held numerous other posts in his church. He was a board member and secretary-treasurer of R. F. Gates Evangelical Association, and he was also a member of the board and past president of the Rutherford House.

In everything he undertook, Joe Milner went about it with zest, skill, and determination. As a lawyer, he was both a generalist and a specialist. He knew how to do, and did, almost every phase of legal work - successions, corporation law, trusts, and litigation of all varieties - and was highly expert in banking and corporate finance. Quietly aggressive as a trial advocate, he was constant in his courtesy to opposing counsel, to witnesses and to the court. He was unwaveringly committed to the highest standards of quality in all of his legal work and to the necessity of doing the work promptly. To his skill and energy, Joe Milner brought that sound, good sense that has been called the "gift of heaven."

We believe that to all who knew him as a lawyer, Joe Milner was an exceptional lawyer; that to all who knew him as a friend, he was an exceptional friend; and that to all who knew him in his religious life, he was an exceptional Christian.

It has been said that the art of life is to know how to greatly enjoy its fulfillments and joys, and to know how to greatly endure its

suffering and loss. Joe Milner found a bountiful store of this art in his family, his friends and his work, and in his religious faith that could look through suffering and death. Indeed, he seemed to have, in the words of the poet Thomas Hardy, "some blessed hope whereof he knew, and I was unaware."

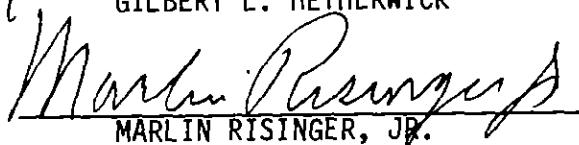
As always, words cannot express what Joe Milner's life has meant, nor the void that his passing leaves for those of us who knew him. His gentle spirit and self-effacing modesty was coupled with an indomitable will and steadfast courage that recalls Shakespeare's line that "Virtue is bold and goodness never fearful." He lived and died with the confident assurance that a living God guided and sustained him in all that he did. His spirit was born of that assurance and touched all of us who knew him and made us better than we might otherwise have been. We all miss him.

The Memorial Committee acknowledges with appreciation the contribution to this memorial made by Professor Thomas A. Harrell of the faculty of the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, the Committee requests that the Court order that this memorial to Joseph William Milner be inscribed in the permanent records of the Court and that copies thereof be sent to his wife, his sons, his mother and his sister.

Respectfully submitted,


GILBERT L. HETHERWICK


MARLIN RISINGER, JR.


ROBERT ROBERTS III, CHAIRMAN