

Memorial for
NEILSON SCOTT JACOBS
Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony
Held by the First Judicial District Court
November 5, 2015
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Neilson Scott Jacobs was born May 14, 1930. He passed away peacefully at his home on August 28, 2015.

Neilson is survived by his devoted and loving wife Ann Jarrell Jacobs, who he often called his greatest love, and by his cherished children: Toinette Wilkinson and her husband Joe, Scott Jacobs and his wife Dianna, Eloise Gamble and her husband Allen, Frances Smith, Emmie Cook and her husband Mike, and Mary Jacobs. Neilson was preceded in death by his son Walter Bryan Jacobs, II, his sister Mary Jacobs Smith, his brother Walter Jacobs, Jr. and his parents Mary Neilson Jacobs and Walter B. Jacobs.

Those who knew Neilson best, know that if he had the choice, he would not want to be "memorialized" at all. He was a very private person, so much so that his best friend, Al Evans, when I asked for his assistance in writing this, had to ask his wife, Ann, to help us. I thank both of them for their insights and suggestions. With this in mind, I have tried to make my remarks brief and concise.

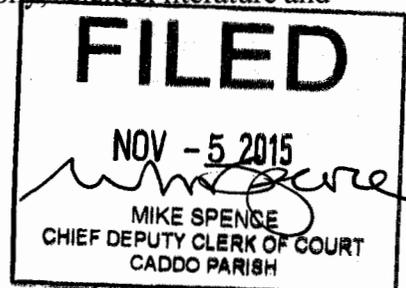
Neilson attended LSU, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity and received his undergraduate degree in 1951. He received his law degree from LSU in 1955 and then did graduate studies at SMU Law School. In law school, he was a member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity and was active in law review and moot court matters. Although he was born into one of Shreveport's premier banking families, Neilson chose to practice law. In 1956, he joined the firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin and Roberts and spent his entire legal career with that firm.

Neilson was a quiet, thoughtful man who loved to research every detail of his legal cases. He was dedicated to his profession and concentrated his practice in the areas of real estate and oil and gas law.

Many of his clients became his personal friends and remained his friends for life. A case in point is his friendship with four Italian families, who wished to invest in real estate in the United States because they were concerned about political troubles in Europe. Neilson, not only represented two of them in the purchase of property, but because of the friendship that developed between them, he and his children visited them in Italy and Austria on several occasions and he often called the patriarch of one of those families, one of his very best friends because they shared the same love of philosophy, music and literature.

Neilson loved to run and could be seen at the YMCA running around the track for many years. Also, I remember seeing pictures of him with massive "Popeye" forearms and I was shocked to learn that he was quite a boxer in his younger years.

Neilson's greatest love was his family. His six children, Toinette, Scott, Eloise, Frances, Emmie and Mary . . . his grandchildren as well as his two great grandchildren were a constant delight to him. He met Ann, his wife, late in life and they had over ten glorious years of marriage filled with love, laughter, adventure, travel, music and explorations in philosophy, science, literature and religion.



Their favorite outdoor hobby was "Birding", where Neilson's interest was mostly in Birds of Prey and Falconry. As one of his Falconry friends wrote to Ann, "His spirit is now soaring with the eagles."

In his retirement, he took up several pursuits that he had not had time to enjoy before. One of these was cooking. Ann said that for dinner, many nights, Neilson would cook the main course . . . usually fish . . . and she would fill in with the vegetables. He perfected his already existent talent in grilling, much to her delight.

Neilson's enjoyment of the "finer things in life" included his love of great classical music. The Baroque composers were his favorites. Ann said that their home was always filled with music and it is a great comfort to her to continue listening to his favorites. He had a collection of books that he loved and often read and re-read the great classics. His computer was also a great source of entertainment and information. He loved to research anything that captured his interest and spent hours on the computer solving all the worlds problems and always learning. Al Evans said he researched medical issues and was fired by 2 or 3 doctors.

Neilson was a man of great moral integrity. He was known by those closest to him to believe that honor and truth were two of the most valued characteristics of any person. In his professional and personal life and in his politics, he did not believe in bending or breaking the rules. This, sometimes led his children to think that he was a bit "hard headed" because once he made up his mind, it was not easy to change it . . . make that impossible. As one of his law partners, I know that he could be a bit stubborn.

Neilson served his beloved country with his tour of duty in the Air Force and his patriotism never wavered. He was a true believer in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and all the great ideals upon which this country was founded. He and Al Evans became best friends because both were staunch conservatives. Neilson regularly contributed to causes he felt were set to uphold the United States of America and its mission for world peace.

Into most lives, there is great pleasure and great sadness . . . So it was with Neilson. I have mentioned some of his great pleasures and now, I will mention his greatest sadness . . . that was the death of his young son, Walter, who was killed in front of their home as he ran into the street and was hit by a car. It is said that there is no greater grief that a person can feel than the death of one's child and Neilson would be the first to say that is so. His grief from that tragic accident was profound and lasted until the day he died . . . but, to show the character of the man, after the accident, the driver of the car was arrested and put in jail. I do not know what sort of charges were filed against him, but Neilson knew it was an accident and in spite of his great grief and amidst the turmoil of his family grieving, Neilson put on his coat and tie, went to town and made sure that the man who was driving the car was set free and not charged with any wrongdoing. I cannot imagine what strength and willpower it took for him to do that, at that time.

When Neilson met Ann, he found that she and her family had belonged to Ananias Hunting and Fishing Club since the early 70s and had been very active members, so he began going there with her on a regular basis. After they married, they spent many very happy hours in their little boat, going in and out of the beautiful cypress trees, enjoying the variety of birds that were nesting, perching and fishing on the lake . . . but, especially they enjoyed sitting on the pier and watching the beautiful sunsets. They often discussed that a certain special place in the lake, within a grove of cypress trees was a little bit of heaven and they both wished that would be where they would like to have their ashes scattered when the time came, so they would always be in that special place. So, when all of their children were able to join them, a few days after death, they had a small ceremony with each person participating and they left Neilson's ashes there as he had wished. The beautiful sunset that evening was a very fitting end to leaving his ashes there but in looking to the skies, they all knew that he was indeed soaring with the eagles.

Neilson Jacobs leaves behind the example of a modest, private and somewhat shy man, who gave his best to the world and the blessings of love for his family, a few close friends and wonderful memories that will not fade with the sunsets.

I am honored to offer this memorial in memory of Neilson Scott Jacobs, and move that it be filed and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, and that copies be presented to Neilson's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recordation as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm. Timothy Allen III". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Wm. Timothy Allen III