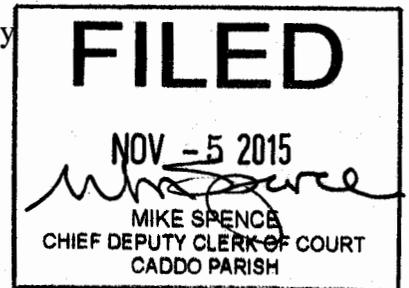


Memorial for

**THE HONORABLE TOM STAGG**

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, MIKI, JULIE, AND MARGARET:

Micah 6:8 asks:

What does the Lord require of thee but to do justice  
to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Well done, Tom! Superbly done!

What a man, what a giant! What a representative of the Greatest Generation! It is beyond my limited ability and time to encompass here the life, talents and deeds of this always intellectually curious man. To our last conversation he still craved knowledge of subjects yet unexplored.

World War II veteran, two Purple Hearts, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf cluster. He returned from War, married the love of his life, Miki O'Brien, went to LSU Law School on the G.I. bill, where they lived in "married students" housing, also known as Quonset huts. He came home to Shreveport to have a family, Margaret and Julie, to practice law, to invest in the community, to develop shopping centers, to invest in local businesses, to build buildings, including our Court House, to photograph flowers wherever found, to play badminton most Monday nights, weather permitting and sometimes not permitting, to serve as needed, wherever and whenever, he served in just about every District in the Fifth Circuit, often on the Texas Border, he sat on the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals. In his spare time he managed to be a mentor, to advise, to donate time and money to worthy causes, to BE! It is almost too much even for 92 years!

Present almost at the Creation of the Republican Party of Louisiana. Delegate to five National Conventions, where he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee. National Committeeman for eight years. Candidate for the Senate and Louisiana Attorney General. Delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention, lawyer, businessman, Community Leader.

And finally, and certainly not least, for 41 years, seven of which he served as Chief Judge, a United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. It was a position he considered the finest devised by the mind of man. He once turned down a seat on the Fifth Circuit, preferring to stay "where the action is" and where he always obeyed Socrates' injunction:

To Hear Courteously,  
To Answer Wisely,  
To Consider Soberly,  
To Decide Impartially.

He always said that his commission was for life and that he intended to fill out his term. He did, he signed his last order the day before he died, and it was filed the day after.

Tom Stagg, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Friend, Citizen.

Now he has left us like the full-grown leaf of the sweet gum tree, which had done its part in giving strength to the trunk and limbs, having given its all, its energy sapped and its color faded, the wind received it, and gently lays it to the earth.

Life and Death are God's greatest mysteries, but we know they are a part of His plan. We know that Tom has gone ahead, but as long as we remain on this earth, he will always be with us. His friendship, love and humor will always be on call, to warm the cold, to light the dark, to give comfort for the moment.

Memorials are not made solely from marble or stone. They can be as ephemeral as a passing thought that enriches the moment, bringing a smile to our lips and joy to our souls.

John Donne wrote:

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in  
mankind. Send not to ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

Because of his long service to our Country, State and City, and that so much energy and love and friendship were shared with us, the passing of this noble, honorable and decent man diminishes us all.

For myself, I confess it is painful to view the future without being able to turn to him for advice, for our chats, our trips, for sharing a glass of cheap white wine!

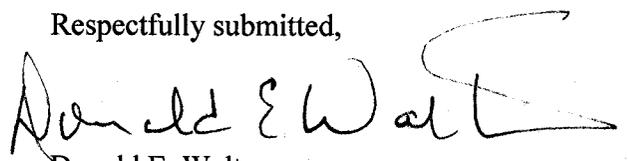
I take comfort in the poet Mathew Arnold:

It is no small thing, to have enjoyed the sun,  
To have lived light in the Spring,  
to have loved, to have thought, to have done;  
to have advanced true friends, and beat down baffling foes!

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, give comfort to his Family and friends. We are not likely to see such a man again.

I am honored to offer this memorial to the memory of Judge Tom Stagg, and move that it be filed and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial Court, and that copies be presented to Tom's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recognition as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald E. Walter