

IN MEMORIAM
VERNON WOOTEN WOODS

FILED

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Honorable Judges, Members of the Bar,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed appropriate on this occasion to offer a resolution in memory of a man whose outstanding career exemplified the highest standards of our profession and whose personal friendship meant so much to many of us.

Vernon W. Woods was born on September 16, 1919 in Monticello, Arkansas, the son of Clyde and Bernice Woods. The family moved to Shreveport when Vernon was 12 years of age and he attended public schools in this city. He was a 1936 graduate of Byrd High School where he was president of the student body, Commander of the First R.O.T.C. Battalion and president of the debate club. In 1942 he was awarded a Juris Doctor degree by Louisiana State University where he was president of the student body, president of his fraternity, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and a Lt. Colonel in the R.O.T.C.

Vernon served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II as an Infantry Company Commander under General Patton in the European Theatre and received the Combat Infantryman Award and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Upon his return to Shreveport, Vernon entered the practice of law and subsequently became a senior partner in the firm of Wilkinson, Woods, Carmody, Meadows and Hall. In 1972 he moved to New Orleans to participate as an owner in organizing and operating Mid Louisiana Gas Company which he served as General Counsel and later as President. He was also a Senior Vice President of Celeron Corporation. Vernon died on July 22, 1983 in New Orleans.

Active in religious and civic life, Vernon served as Junior Warden and Lay Reader of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Shreveport, a member of the Home Rule Charter Commission for Shreveport and President of the Rotary Club.

Vernon was a leader, with great communication skills, and he was well liked, popular and admired by his peers as evidenced by his election as president of both his high school and college student bodies, as well as other organizations, and, in 1961, his election as President of the Shreveport Bar Association.

He was a gentle and soft spoken man, yet one who was strong and courageous as demonstrated by his combat service in World War II and his aggressive advocacy on behalf of clients in court, before regulatory agencies and at the negotiating table.

Vernon was a brilliant lawyer who personified what we term a scholar of the law and he was just as brilliant in the practice of law. He had an enormous talent, extraordinary industry and uncompromising integrity. Yet, he was a modest and unassuming man. These qualities accounted in large measure for his successful career as an attorney and businessman.

The primary quality reflected by his life, however, was his Christian nature. He was indeed a Christian gentleman who exhibited a spirit of generosity toward others. This spirit manifested itself in his being tolerant - - never critical; kind - - never demanding; compassionate - - never selfish; fair minded - - never unjust; and caring - - always caring. This spirit of generosity began with his family and extended to his friends, law partners, business associates and all others with whom he came in contact. He gave fully of himself and many of us are beneficiaries of his generosity.

The contributions which he made to his community, profession and business were excelled only by the love and dedication exhibited to his family. He was a devoted husband and father who loved nothing more than being with his family - - whether at home, in church, on a trip down the river, in a duck blind, or just sitting in a boat on a lake waiting for the sunrise. Time with his family provided him with the most precious moments of his life. The love which he gave to his family was returned many fold and, in addition to fulfilling his life, it represented the highest tribute a man can receive.

Vernon was a "gem" of a man - - rare and very special. Our lives have been enriched for having the privilege of knowing and working with him. He is survived by his wife, Helen Shaw Woods of Metairie; his mother, Mrs. Bernice Woods of Shreveport; two sons, James M. Woods of Metairie and Major John D. Woods of Irvine, California; one daughter, Susan W. Woods of Metairie; and one brother, Dalton J. Woods of Shreveport. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.


BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Shreveport Bar Association adopt and record this memorial as a testimonial and tribute to the memory of Vernon W. Woods and that copies of this resolution be delivered to his family.

Respectfully submitted,


Willis L. Meadows


Arthur R. Carmody, Jr.


Judge Pike Hall, Jr.


Harry R. Nelson

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE