

# FILED

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*W. C. Rice, Jr.*  
Deputy Clerk

SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HONORING WILLIAM HOWARD BRONSON

SEPTEMBER 4, 1973

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William Howard Bronson passed away on November 18, 1972. A native of Dadeville, Alabama, he attended Auburn University and then transferred to the University of Alabama for the completion of his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1933. After graduate study at Harvard University, he entered the Louisiana State University School of Law in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was awarded an L.L.B. degree. A most decisive factor in Bill's decision to enter the Louisiana State University Law School was his marriage to Lillian Francez, a native of Crowley, Louisiana.

Bill's record at the law school was of superior excellence and the dean offered him the opportunity of joining the law school faculty. At this time Mr. John H. Tucker, Jr., who was practicing law in Shreveport, was anxious to obtain the services of an outstanding young law school graduate. After going to the law school in Baton Rouge and meeting various graduates, he asked that Bill Bronson join his firm.

With his characteristic energy and hard work, combined with his superior mind, at a relatively early time in his legal

career he became a lawyer in the first rank of his profession. In numerous important cases he demonstrated his capacity as a versatile attorney who could cope with the intricacies of the law, as well as with situations requiring a lawyer's personal qualities of understanding and consideration of the problems of his client, either of a business or personal nature.

During his career as a lawyer, he became general counsel to The Times Publishing Company, Ltd. and its affiliates, which included radio stations. On the death in 1952 of Mr. John D. Ewing, President and Publisher of The Shreveport Times, Bill Bronson was elected to succeed him. His active practice as a lawyer was thus terminated and his career until the time of his death was in the direction of the affairs of The Shreveport Times, the Monroe News-Star-World, KWKH radio station and television station KTHV in Little Rock, Arkansas. As he often remarked, his new career was enriched by his knowledge of the law and his many associations with lawyers and the judiciary. The publication of the paper and the supervision of the other interests were intimately interwoven with his legal training and based upon the ideals of fair play and integrity. He believed that just as he had as an attorney a fiduciary responsibility to his clients and the courts, the newspaper had a fiduciary responsibility to the people of the community.

His outside interests were manifold in the areas of community service, business interests and religious activities. All of them are too numerous to mention but, as examples, he was on the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Southern Railway Company and its affiliates, a director of the Louisiana State Fair, a director of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of the Public Affairs Research Council, an Episcopal vestryman for many years, and a supporter of 4 H Club activities, as well as many other associations with his particular fields of interest and bar association activities. One of the outstanding achievements was his work as First Vice Chairman of the Louisiana Coordinating Council for Higher Education. After his appointment in 1969, he continued to give full support to the development of LSU Shreveport and was a leader in the effort which accomplished the four year status for this institution.

Bill Bronson was not a person who courted popularity but who achieved his steadfast friends by his devotion to the principles that guided his life. The things that were important to Bill Bronson are the measure of the man. Bill's character was reflected in his devotion to his wife and family, his dedication to his church and civic responsibilities, and to his constant demands upon himself to do his very best in the task at hand.

He is survived by his widow, Lillian Francez Bronson, a son, William Howard Bronson, Jr., of Shreveport, and a daughter, Susan Bronson Croft, of Atlanta, Georgia, as well as six grandchildren, a brother and two sisters.

May it please the Court, the Committee moves that the sympathy and regret of the Shreveport Bar Association be extended to Mrs. Bronson and the other members of the family, that copies of this memorial be sent to them and that it be spread upon the records of the First Judicial District Court and of this Association as a testimonial of the respect of the members of the legal profession in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert McLean Jeter, Jr.

  
Winfred L. Martin

  
Horace M. Holder