

**MEMORIAL FOR
ARTHUR RODERICK CARMODY, JR.
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY HELD
IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 28, 2021
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

A proper memoriam for the Shreveport Bar Association about one of its finest departed attorneys and notable personalities would require an entire hour allotted to what is this year a two-year memorial and recognition service for many fine lawyers. On behalf of Larry Pettiette and the undersigned, it is my privilege today to deliver these brief remarks about our beloved colleague and friend, Art Carmody.

Arthur R. Carmody, Jr., known to me as "Art", was born on February 19, 1928, in Shreveport to Arthur Roderick Carmody and Caroline Gaughan Carmody. He attended St. John in Shreveport and then attended high school and junior college at the New Mexico Military Institute, where he was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and served as a First Lieutenant of Artillery in the U.S. Army Reserves. In his office, he proudly displayed a photo of himself and his horse, clearing a triple bar jump as Captain of the champion horse jumping team. For many years, until his health would no longer allow, he returned to Roswell at homecoming and participated in the NMMI Annual Trail Ride. He liked to recount his cavalry achievements, but particularly let us know that his dear friend and fellow classmate had married a Playboy Playmate who would regularly come along for the ride.

Art received a Bachelor of Science degree from Fordham University, a Jesuit school in New York in 1949, of which Coach Vince Lombardi was an alumni, and received his law degree at Louisiana State University Law School in 1952. Upon passing the bar, Art joined the law firm of Willis, Lewis, Wilkinson (now Wilkinson, Carmody & Gilliam), Shreveport's oldest law firm, formed in 1895. He started out at the firm as a summer runner, and he practiced law there for 69 years, the entirety of his law career, which is truly a rare feat in today's world.

Art was a successful trial lawyer for over fifty years in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana and the surrounding area, representing such clients as railroads, including The Kansas City Southern Railway Company, public utilities, including SWEPCO, schools, local movie theatres (wherein he opposed censorship), National Collegiate Athletic Association (with Robert Parrish and Bruce Smith being key figures), and even the founder of professional wrestling in its present form (Cowboy Bill Watts).



Art started moving into retirement in the last fifteen years; however, he continued coming to the office five days a week for half days until Covid struck last year. In these later years, Art concentrated more on writing articles and Op-Ed letters for numerous publications, including *The Shreveport Times*. He was a regular contributor to the *Shreveport Bar Review*, which included articles on topics of Shreveport and Louisiana legal history.

Art was actively involved in preserving Catholic secondary education in the Shreveport area. In 1969, the Jesuit Order which had owned and controlled St. Johns High School since 1901, announced that it would be closed in the following year due to financial concerns and manpower shortages. Art, who already represented the school, led a small group of Catholic men who negotiated and worked with the Jesuit Order to turn the school over to a lay board of trustees which assumed all of the obligations of the existing school. In so doing, he devised and negotiated with the Jesuits for what is called the “Shreveport Plan” which “saved the school from closure”, as attested in the Alumni Achievement Award at Fordham University given in 1995. Art was the second chairman of the board of trustees and served as a board member for many years. The high school, now named Loyola College Prep, inducted Art into their Hall of Honor in 1993.

Art served as president of the Shreveport Bar Association and was a member of the governor's ad hoc committee to write the draft of the laws regulating lignite mining and development in Louisiana, and he was also a member of the special committee appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1968 to review issues of lawyer and judicial conduct. In 1978, he was into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and was a founding member of the local American Inn of Court and the Red Mass of Shreveport. His office was filled with many plaques, awards, and mementos from a distinguished law career, yet secretly he took much pride in the framed article wherein he was voted as one of Shreveport's Best Dressed men.

A memorial about Art would not be complete without telling a few personal stories. He loved sports and was an officer and director of the Shreveport Braves Baseball Club (Texas League) in the late 1950s, a general partner in the Shreveport Steamer organization in the World Football League in the 1970s and president of the Touchdown Club of Shreveport.

Art's personal library was unsurpassed, and he was a voracious reader, particularly of history, including military history. He loved sporting events, attending multiple World Series, Super Bowls, and College Football Bowl games and would occasionally engage in a friendly wager. His favorite athletic achievement, which he would annually remind everyone, was when at the age of 70, he had

three base hits in three plate appearances in the Loyola College Prep baseball alumni game.

He loved to quiz the office runners, and sometimes paralegals, with trivia questions, awarding \$1 to whoever correctly answered first. He probably wrote 50 plus letters a day at some point in his career, dictating to three secretaries. Many people received personal notes from Art, always typed, many handwritten, and always in conformance with *The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage*.

His pride and joy was the firm's annual Christmas Party, which is unique and filled with old pictures, food, drink, and plenty of friends in the legal and business community. The Christmas Party has continued since 1895, through the Depression and the Second World War, with the exception of last year due to Covid, but it will be held this year and he will be pleased.

Art could tell you where to sit for the best seat in almost any professional baseball field in the country. He could also make a call to New York City and get you front seats to any Broadway play. He had friends from all walks of life, from federal judges, mayors, politicians and priests, to the yard man, and he was loved by all, except during litigation. He had great tenacity and was able to persuade Justice Scalia to appear at the Red Mass in Shreveport. Angie Dickinson, who was his favorite actress, not only responded to his letter, but would send him a card and a signed photo on his birthday for many years. He remained a prolific writer, literally, until the day he passed.

One could not just come to Art's office and have a conversation with him; you had to give a detailed account of what was going on, after which he would reply, "Good report."

Art was my colleague, partner, and most of all friend, and will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Bench and Bar and the Shreveport Bar Association I, the undersigned, Bobby S. Gilliam, and Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr., submit this memorial to the memory of Arthur R. Carmody, Jr. and move that it be inscribed in the records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and that certified copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 28 day of October, 2021, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.



Bobby S. Gilliam

Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr.