

FILED

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD S. KLEIN

NOV 10 1949

*E. H. Gook, Jr.*  
DEPUTY CLERK

The passing of Edward S. Klein on September 9, 1949 took from the Bar of Shreveport and of the State of Louisiana a member whose twenty years of splendid service will leave a memory that will have a lasting influence in the hearts of his many friends and associates. In his limited span of life he has served God and man with the ideal spirit of a true advocate - one whose principles and practices have acknowledged and proclaimed that good law and true justice have their seat in the bosom of God and have their voice in the harmony of the world. It is more than fitting that the members of the Bar should pause for a moment to pay tribute to this member who has contributed more than his share to the professional, the civic and the religious life of his city and his state.

Edward S. Klein was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on October 28, 1905, and had lived these forty-three years here without waste of time or talent. He attended the public schools of the city and graduated from the Old Shreveport High School in the top bracket of his class. When he had completed his primary education he enrolled at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where his keen intelligence and scholarly aptitude earned for him the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Because of his outstanding record in the College of Arts and Sciences he was awarded a scholarship in the School of Law. In 1928 he graduated with high honors in the Vanderbilt Law School and gained the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

Ed Klein was not only a good student but was a good fellow who was well liked by his classmates. His kindly disposition and keen sense of humor gained many friends and admirers. He was accordingly elected to membership in the Zeta Tau Alpha social fraternity and to the Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity - honors which come only to those who display character and leadership in their college activities.

Following his graduation from Vanderbilt University, Ed Klein returned to his home in Shreveport where he began the practice of law and entered into a life of civic, social and religious responsibility and service. Two years later he became a member of the law firm of Wilkinson, Lewis & Wilkinson and remained with that firm during the balance of his life. He was a member of the American, the Louisiana and the Shreveport Bar Associations, and served as Secretary of the association last named. In his professional career he has displayed in an admirable way the qualities which are essential to a successful barrister and attorney. In the office his associates have described him as a man who cheerfully and conscientiously has accepted every responsibility that has been placed before him, one who has spared no effort to represent the best interests of his clients, and one who has diligently and thoroughly followed the exacting requirements of a busy practitioner. Among his clients were the large corporation and the small businessman, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, but none were ever considered by him to be unimportant.

In the court room he has gained the respect of the Bench and the Bar because his aggressive zeal as an

advocate has always been tempered with a spirit of fairness and an attitude of politeness toward his adversaries. The thoroughness with which he prepared his cases, the enthusiasm with which he prosecuted them in court, and the eloquence of his arguments are reflected in the successful legal career which came to an end in the prime of his life.

In his religious life Edward Klein exemplified the life of a devout follower of his faith. At the time of his death he was Vice-President of B'Nai Zion Congregation and served as a lay reader in the services of the synagogue. His Rabbi paid him the following beautiful tribute:

"Edward Klein was a young man in years, but he leaves such memories as others could collect only in twice his span. His uniform was neither olive drab nor navy blue -- but rather the uniform of service that transcended armies or nations and embraced the whole of mankind. Few among us can claim as much.

"Service seemed to be his guiding star, his great passion in life. But to his everlasting credit, let it be said that Edward Klein never spread himself so thin that he had no time left for his own people, his own faith. As his rabbi, it was a constant inspiration to see him respond to the many calls made upon his time. In the fraternal life of our Jewish community, he served as President of B'Nai B'rith and by his high ideals, led this great organization onward and upward toward the realization of its worthy goals. In the field of Jewish charities, his compassion for the suffering and his discontent with minimal aid for stricken Jews led him to the chairmanship of our Federation campaign. And so fully did he carry his ideals into practice, so far did his dream of service lead him that he gave himself unstintingly to the cause of homeless Jews throughout the world. And as one-time president of the Shreveport Zionist District, he earned a cherished and eternal niche in their Golden Book of valiant workers and lofty hearts.

"One wonders then, how Edward Klein could do the things he did and do them all so well. But wonder still we may when we recall the devoted service he gave throughout the years to the Temple he loved so well. In the rabbi's absence, he conducted worship services with rare ability and singular devotion. He served on the Temple Board and willingly undertook whatever committee appointments were handed him. And fittingly, he was elevated to that office a year and a half ago which, had God seen fit to let him live out his time, would have led him to the Presidency of his and our beloved Temple. In the pew or on the pulpit, he was the stuff of which Temples grow and faith is made stronger. Truly, a prince in Israel has been taken away."

To community and civic undertakings Edward Klein devoted much of his time and talent. Though business and professional affairs made exacting demands on his time he found opportunities to serve many organizations that worked for the common welfare. He was a member of Shreveport Lodge No. 115 F. & A. M., Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Southfield School, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Service Bureau, one of the welfare agencies of the Shreveport Community Chest.

Edward Klein was a devoted husband and father and always evidenced a great and abiding love for his home and his family. On December 4, 1937, he was married to Bertha Meyer and of that union a daughter, Anne, was born. His wife and child, a sister, Mrs. Sidney Wiener, of Nashville, a niece, Mrs. Richard Wile of Chicago, and an aunt, Mrs. Sam Cohn, of Nashville, Tennessee, are joined by a large circle of friends in mourning his loss.

Since the passing of Edward S. Klein has taken away an esteemed member of the Bar, a valued and upright

citizen, a worthy member of the Jewish faith, and a faithful head of a fine family.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Shreveport Bar Association that we do hereby pay tribute to the fine character, the professional merit and the good works of Edward S. Klein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the passing of Edward S. Klein, the legal profession of Louisiana has lost a worthy member; that we, the Shreveport Bar, express our profound sorrow at his death, our thankfulness for his contributions to our profession, and our sympathy to his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be filed in this Court, a copy filed with the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and a copy delivered to the family of Edward S. Klein.

W. B. Wilkinson  
Louise Z. Hendrix  
John V. Ginton  
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION