

MEMORIAL FOR
JAMES E. FRANKLIN, JR.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Your Honors, family members, friends, and members of the bar:

James E. Franklin, Jr. was a dedicated lawyer, a man of truth and integrity. Although soft spoken, he was a zealous advocate who asked for no quarter and gave none.

Jim Franklin was born November 10, 1938 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. His parents were James E. Franklin and Thelma Franklin. Jim died peacefully on January 14, 2020.

Jim was a graduate of C. E. Byrd High School, Centenary College, and LSU Law School. He was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. He practiced law for over 50 years and served on the Board of Governors of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association. His areas of practice included criminal defense, family law, and plaintiff's personal injury.

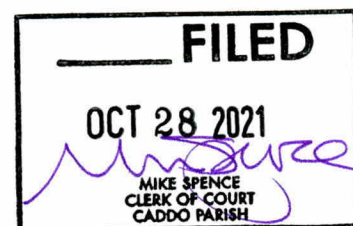
Away from the office, he was an avid gardener who loved all flowers and especially roses. He used his time in the garden to get away from the stresses of trial practice. Jim was an avid sports fan and enjoyed cheering for the LSU Tigers, Centenary basketball, and the Dallas Cowboys. He was also interested in and very knowledgeable about boxing. He was a lifetime member of the Yaya Lunch Club, conceived by Jim and his good friend, Don Miller. Jim was also a regular attendee at Sansone's Continental Room and enjoyed with his longtime friend, Vito Cefalu.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Linda, and his sister Janette Franklin Bartels. Two of his sons, Jimmy and Jarred, are members of the Shreveport bar. He is also survived by his daughter, Andrea and her husband Guy Kaminski, Kathy Franklin, wife of Jarred, Brock Franklin, his sister Judy Franklin Dice, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Jim handled a number of important cases during his career. One of which was his representation of DeSoto Parish resident Louis Flanagan, who was wrongfully convicted in a state court proceeding. Jim was successful in obtaining Mr. Flanagan's release from prison after twelve years through post-conviction relief in the federal courts. Another important case that Jim handled involved the fire at Dixie Cold Storage. One of Jim's clients was the father of United States Representative Mike Johnson.

Perhaps the most publicized legal matter in which Jim was involved occurred as a result of the construction of the United Mercantile parking garage. Jim's office, in the 200 block of Texas Street was located next to the garage that was under construction. The buildings shared a common wall. The contractor, in the process of erecting the parking garage, caused the common wall to fall and destroy a large portion of Jim's office. Jim was at lunch when this incident occurred and, upon his return, he began to look for his mother. No one knew where she was and Jim had left her inside the office when he went to lunch. When his mother was not found, Jim immediately went into the office building to determine his mother's fate. A Shreveport City policeman attacked Jim as he attempted to enter the building. He threw him across the hood of his police vehicle and struck him several times in the face. The entire incident was recorded by a Channel 12 cameraman and provided crucial evidence in Jim's claim against the City of Shreveport. That matter was litigated to a jury presided over by the Hon. Tom Stagg. Jim received a significant judgment as a result of the excessive force inflicted by the police officer.

Jim was a friend to many of us in the legal profession, but, more importantly, he was an unrelenting advocate for his clients. He served as a role model for lawyers in the representation of their clients. He will be sorely missed by the bench and the citizens of Caddo Parish.



Your Honors, the Committee moves that this memorial be spread upon the minutes of this court and that copies be delivered to the family.

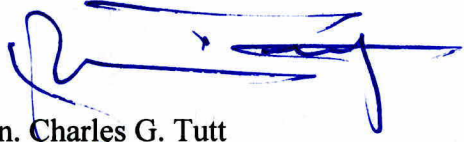
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Herschel E. Richard, Jr." in a cursive style.

Herschel E. Richard, Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gordon E. Rountree" in a cursive style.

Gordon E. Rountree

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hon. Charles G. Tutt" in a cursive style.

Hon. Charles G. Tutt