

**MEMORIAL FOR
J. William Fleming
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 14, 2024
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

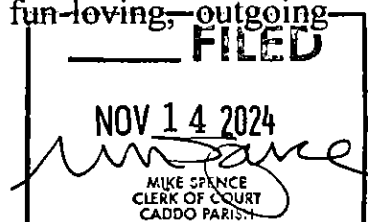
Your Honors, family, friends, and fellow members of the bar,

Joseph William ("Bill") Fleming was born on July 13, 1945 to J. W. Fleming and Martha Trowbridge Fleming. Bill died peacefully in hospice care on February 22, 2024.

Bill was raised by his single mother and spent his early years growing up on Davis Street, which is just off of Marshall near downtown. Bill's aunt, Addie Trowbridge Pixler and his uncles, Bill Pixler, Arthur Trowbridge, and Bill Trowbridge played important roles in Bill's early years.

Bill was a life-long member of the Roman Catholic church. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and often attended Mass at Holy Trinity during the week. He was a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher and a founding member of the Red Mass Society. As co-chair of the Red Mass Society, he was instrumental in securing the attendance of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia for the 2005 Red Mass. He was a loyal supporter of Sister Margaret and her work at Christian Services, and he found renewal and spiritual growth each year at Manresa Retreat Center, valuing his annually allotted time slot there like some people value season tickets to Tiger Stadium. Bill attended St. John's Elementary and High School, which was renamed Jesuit High School when Bill was in the 10th grade.

Following his graduation from Jesuit High School, he attended Louisiana State University, as well as one summer session at Centenary College. He received his undergraduate degree in 1967 and started law school at LSU in the fall of that year. While in law school, Bill was elected president of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. After his second year, Bill married the love of his life, Carolyn Sentell. They were married for more than 54 years. Carolyn's fun-loving, outgoing



personality was a perfect match for Bill's dry wit. After graduation, Bill clerked for the Honorable Pike Hall, who was a member of the Second Circuit Court of Appeal and, following that clerkship, was associated with Skeels, Baker and Coleman. Bill started work in the oil and gas field when he joined Shuey and Smith which eventually became Shuey, Smith & Fleming. In the early 1980's, there was a considerable increase in the oil and gas activity in northwest Louisiana and Sidney Cook of Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway was determined that Cook Yancey would become a major player in that practice. He recruited Bill to join Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway and Bill spent the last 40 years of law practice with that firm. Bill was a preeminent oil and gas title lawyer, having learned that practice from John Shuey and I. Henry Smith. Later, he developed a thriving practice before the Office of Conservation and was one of the half a dozen lawyers in the state who specialized in this area. He was one of the state's most respected oil and gas practitioners. Navigability of water bodies when Louisiana entered the Union in 1812 and other issues involving rivers, streams, and lakes would often be matters of great significance with respect to oil and gas titles. After Bill had discussed the legal principles and convoluted factual situations concerning navigability, accretion, and dereliction in intricate detail for what seemed to be at least an hour, the recipients of his knowledge were said to have been "Fleminized."

If one had to described Bill with one word, it would be "kind." There are countless stories of Bill quietly helping persons who were in need. His quick wit was also memorable. His daughter's favorite story was when a streetcar driver asked him if he was Dick Chaney and he quickly whispered "Yes, I am, but don't tell anyone."

For many years, Bill was an avid duck hunter, and he spent many duck seasons at Dave's Bayou Duck Club. Prior to hunting there, he was a dedicated hunter on Caddo Lake with his friends. Bill was the perfect person with whom to co-own a boat or duck camp; he took care of maintaining, repairing, cleaning, and housing the boat or camp while his co-owners enjoyed the fruits of Bill's labor.

Bill was preceded in his death by his parents, his sister Louann Fleming Young and her husband Billy Young. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn Sentell Fleming, his son, Joseph William Fleming, Jr. and his wife Holly of

Shreveport, Louisiana, and his daughter, Elizabeth Fleming Hummert and her husband Jeremy of Grapevine, Texas. He is also survived by his grandchildren of whom he was especially proud. Emma Fleming, Will Hummert, and Brady Hummert are outstanding athletes and Bill loved watching their games.

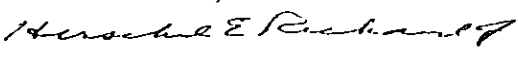
One could have no better friend than Bill Fleming. He was rock solid and was someone you could always count on for his empathy and support. We were all beneficiaries of his friendship.

Your Honors, I now move that this Memorial Eulogy for Joseph William Fleming be duly recorded on this 14th day of November, 2024, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and it be spread upon the minutes and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that copies be delivered to Mr. Fleming's family.

Thank you, Your Honors,

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Campbell, III
William Robert McKenzie
Matthew R. May
Frank M. W. Dodson
Herschel E. Richard, Jr.

By: 
Herschel E. Richard, Jr.,
For the Memorial Eulogy Committee