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IN MEMORIAM

JUDGE JAMES R. ALEXANDER

December 17, 1919 - March 10, 1977

We, the undersigned committee, submit the following resolution to the memory of the Honorable James R. Alexander, Judge of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana:

Judge Alexander was born in the heart of Cajun country in Abbeville, Louisiana, on December 17, 1919. There he received his elementary and high school education. He enrolled in LSU and received his under-graduate training. At the beginning of World War II he enlisted in the Marine Corps. From the middle of 1942 until 1946, he served as an officer in the Marines in the Pacific theater.

When the war ended, he returned to LSU, entered law school and, while there, married Betty Lou Whitmeyer of Shreveport. He made a brilliant record in law school, was sixth in his class and was co-editor of the LSU Law Review. Upon graduation, he came to Shreveport and entered the private practice of law with the late Judge Randall Whitmeyer in the firm of Whitmeyer and Alexander. After two years, he was appointed and served for several years as Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana. He returned to the private practice of law in Shreveport as a member of the firm of Gallagher, Alexander and Gallagher.

He was active in civic affairs and, with the rank of major, served as Commander of the Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Shreveport. He was co-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. An active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, he served as lay curate for many years.

Intelligent, warm and friendly, he was well liked and highly respected by everyone and inevitably turned to politics. He was elected to the Caddo Parish Police Jury for three successive terms and served as its vice-president during his second term. In November 1966 he ran for judge, was elected and served for a full six year term on the bench of this court. In 1972 he was re-elected and continued to serve on the court until his retirement in December of 1975 for medical reasons. He died on March 10 of this year and is survived by his wife, Betty Lou, and three children, Roberta, Libby and Jim, all residing in Shreveport.

Dee, as he was known to all of us, was a kind, gentle and perceptive man with a keen sense of humor and, particularly, the ability to chuckle at himself. He was an avid reader, loved to fish and hunt, and was always enthusiastic about football, particularly LSU.

He had a strong sense of honor and integrity and very high standards of ethics. His intelligence and his ability to discern the real issue in a matter served him well both in the practice of law and from the bench. The friendly and courteous manner in which he conducted his affairs made him an honor to his profession. He had a distinguished career.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, of the Shreveport Bar Association, do hereby express our deep admiration and respect to His Honor, Judge James R. Alexander, whose ideals, standards of honor and justice, and accomplishments are worthy of the emulation of every member of the bench and Bar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend to the members of his family our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in his untimely death and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the First Judicial District Court as a final tribute to his outstanding public service to his community and state,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be delivered to the immediate members of his family.

John Gallagher, Chairman

C. A. Tooke, Jr.

Ben King