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## MEMORIAL FOR JOHN WADDY TUCKER

PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OCTOBER 29, 2008 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,

Honorable Judges, Family members, Friends, and Fellow members of the Bar:

It is my privilege to say a few words this afternoon about the life of John Waddy Tucker, know to everyone as Waddy.

Waddy was born February 21, 1934 in Hammond Louisiana, the youngest of six children and the last to survive. His family moved to New Orleans when Waddy was young and he grew up in New Orleans, the city he dearly loved. He attended Jesuit High School in New Orleans and was elected President of his senior class. He continued his undergraduate education at LSU and then attended and graduated from the Tulane School of Law.

After graduation, Waddy then moved to Shreveport, in 1959 where he practiced law for many years. During that time he served for several years as Chief Counsel of the Legal Aid division of our Court and for a time he was a member of the firm of Brown, Williams and Tucker. He ran as a candidate for Shreveport City Judge and for Caddo Parish District Judge. The majority of Waddy's career was spent as a sole practitioner who worked mostly on behalf of the average citizen.

Waddy's life included varied interest. He was a pilot and member of the Airplane Owner's and Pilot's Association, a past president of the Exchange Club and Louisiana State President of the Elks Club, as well as serving twice a Exalted Ruler of Local Elks Lodge 122.

Playing bridge was one of Waddy's varied talents. He attained Life Master Status as a bridge player and was a member and past president of the local American Contract Bridge League. Because of his skills, he was invited on a number of cruises where he taught bridge to other vacationers.

Waddy had a great sense of humor. He loved hearing funny stories and telling them. His trademark was that every time he told a funny story just as he got to the end of it he would burst out laughing some times to the point of tears at his own story. Laughter and seeing that others enjoyed a good time were important to him.

Waddy died June 16, 2007. He is survived by his widow Kay, his two daughters Mary Catherine Micka and Elizabeth deNelle Ordonez and two grandchildren Austin and Addison Micka.

I asked his family members how Waddy would like to be remembered. His widow Kay, who he married only a year before he died, said, "That he used his intellect on behalf of the common man."

His daughter deNelle said, "Tell them about his humility."

His daughter Mary Catherine, who talked to her father every day from Los Angeles, said, "He had a good heart, put others first, was there for us in good times and bad, loved his family and friends and had a wonderful corny sense of humor."

Waddy also stayed devoted to his Catholic faith throughout his life.

In his later years he was burdened with various health difficulties. But through them all he remained positive and hopeful. He never wavered from his compassion for others which was always reflected in his earlier career. His care for others extended well beyond his love of family and his practice of law. He was a friend to many often including those in most need of a friend.

There are different ways we may measure a legal career. Some might say by material gain and others by public recognition and fame. Waddy's measure reflected what is best in us. He used his intelligence and his knowledge and his legal skills for the good of the common man.

I am honored to summit this memorial to the memory of John Waddy Tucker and I move that it be duly recorded and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court and that copies be delivered to Waddy's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for recordation.

Respectfully submitted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.

James R. Malsch