

**MEMORIAL EULOGY FOR
JUDGE RICHARD HARMON DREW, JR.
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:

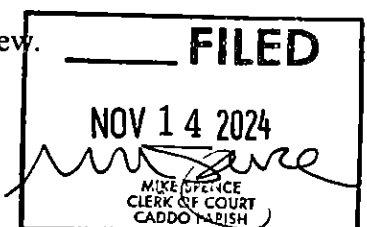
Your Honors, family, friends, and fellow members of the bar,

The late Attorney and Judge, Richard Harmon Drew, Jr., was the epitome of professionalism, integrity, and character to which we hope every member of our legal profession will aspire. As his longtime personal friend, I can attest that he was also exceptionally personable and lived life as an exemplary person who was loved and respected by the many, many people whose lives he touched.

Harmon was born on November 11, 1946 in Minden, Louisiana to Richard Harmon Drew, Sr. and Margaret Elam Drew. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Elizabeth Drew Weaver, and his grandson Drew Joseph Boswell. Harmon was survived by his wife Jean Talley Drew, his two children Richard Harmon Drew III and Georgia Drew Boswell (Devron D. Boswell), his grandchildren Emmaline Boswell and Joseph Boswell, his sister Caldwell Drew Colvin (James Colvin), and his beloved nieces and nephews. Harmon passed away in Minden, Louisiana on December 17, 2023 after a lengthy illness.

Harmon's life was filled with many special relationships. His most treasured relationships were with his devoted wife, Jean, his son, Richard, and daughter, Georgia, and his grandchildren. Harmon recognized and appreciated that he was blessed in his marriage to Jean, his soul mate and life partner. He delighted in her and she was the unfailing source of love, support, comfort, joy, happiness and contentment. Jean – he loved you and he was thankful that you were a Proverbs 31 wife – loyal, trustworthy, industrious, engaging, compassionate, loving and selfless. You truly softened the sadness and magnified the joy in his life. Richard and Georgia – you were your father's pride and joy as you were both very, very special to him.

Harmon grew up in a small town where a man's character is defined by his integrity including his commitment to honor that which he said he would do, by his willingness to help others in time of need, and by his work ethic and devotion to his family and friends. No person more truly represented these small town values than our dear friend Harmon Drew.



After graduating from Minden High School in 1964, Harmon received his undergraduate degree from LSU in 1968 where he was an active and loyal member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and served as President of the fraternity during his senior year. Harmon met and married his beloved wife, Jean Drew, in June of 1970 while attending law school. He received his law degree from LSU Law School in 1971. While in law school, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army in 1970. He then attended the Armor Basic Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1972, after which he received his assignment as an armor officer in the United States Army Reserves.

In 1973, Harmon worked on the Washington staff of Senator Bennett Johnson, and then returned to Minden in late 1973, where he commenced the practice of law with his father and served as an assistant district attorney for several years. He then served for over 30 years as a judge elected first to the Minden City Court in 1984, then to the Louisiana 26th Judicial District Court in 1988, and finally to the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998. Harmon was a fifth generation judge in Webster Parish. Following his great, great grandfather to his father, each of these men served with honor and distinction. His grandfather, Judge Harmon Caldwell Drew, also served on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and became the presiding judge.

In addition to his judicial duties, Harmon was also a magnificent teacher. For many years, he was honored to teach criminal law and procedure to law enforcement personnel, including the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and numerous other agencies across the state. As part of that teaching, he created with his wife, Jean, The True Blue Drew Book, which was updated each year with new developments. Over three decades, Harmon taught over 10,000 law enforcement officers in 52 parishes. He also co-founded and for over thirty years helped conduct the Nuts and Bolts Fun Judicial Seminar which provided training for local court personnel including clerks, criminal experts, judicial administrators and other personnel at an annual conference generally held during the Louisiana Bar Association Convention.

In addition to his judicial duties, Harmon also was a lifelong musician. Music was one of the great passions in his life. He put himself through college by playing the keyboard in bands which were extremely popular. When he returned to Minden in 1973, Harmon soon formed the Harmon Drew Group that played jobs across the state for over 45 years, specializing in 1960s rhythm and blues music. Through his years of playing music, Harmon and his band had a legion of fans who greatly admired and enjoyed his band's performances.

As a lawyer, as a judge, as a teacher, as a musician, and as a wonderful human being, Harmon was a man who put “others first” at all times, in all circumstances. He lived his life in a way that reflected an innate sense of humility. Harmon had a “servant’s heart”, and as such, he treated others as more important than himself. He was committed to excellence in the performance of his duties and his deep compassion for others extended to those less fortunate in life. He commanded respect because of his integrity, his dedication to the profession, his deep compassion and his willingness to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Harmon had a wonderful “sense of humanity” that was both comforting and assuring to those he met. He was “warm, sympathetic and understanding and a source of great energy, excitement, optimism and hopefulness”.

Harmon had an extraordinary personality and his remarkable sense of humor was evident to all that he met. He was a “people person”, and a man who would go to any length to playfully harass and entertain his many friends with his wonderful sense of humor and wit. Harmon had the unique ability to inspire others with his warm and genuine feelings that made newcomers feel instantly at ease with his levity and sincerity. His warm personality resulted in the acquisition of many, many great friends who treasured their relationships with him. In closing, Harmon Drew was the best friend a man could have as he enriched the lives of everyone he met.

Your Honors, I now move that this memorial eulogy for Richard Harmon Drew, Jr. 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 Judge Drew’s family.

Thank you, Your Honors.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Campbell, III
Herschel E. Richard, Jr.
Judge (Ret.) John C. Campbell
The Honorable Judge Robert James

By: James H. Campbell, III
For the Memorial Eulogy Committee