

MEMORIAL FOR
WHITLEY ROBERT GRAVES
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 6, 2025
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

Good afternoon to everyone here today to honor the members of the bar who have crossed over into the afterlife this past year.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

I used to think that think that 69 was old. But now I'm 61 and starting to see my friends pass on. Last year, one of my friends, Whitley Robert Graves, Whit, as he was known, passed on to his next life too soon. He was only 69. While he was here he made a full and happy life for himself and family.

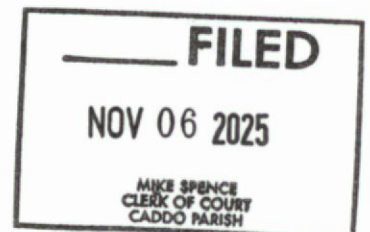
I miss him. I miss seeing him at the Benton Court House. Whether I was going in or coming out, he would stop me. He was quick to ask me about my family and how we were doing. When I returned the gesture, his retort was always delivered with a smile and a boisterous, "wonderful!" Sometimes he would surprise me and say, "just lovely!"

I first met Whit in the 90s while he was working for the Bossier Parish District Attorney. I have told this story many times and it has stuck with me for most of my law career. While writing this memorial, it dawned on me that I have always told the story from the perspective of the attorney that gave it to me. I told it with the idea that sometimes winning is how you define it. Today, I tell it from Whit's point of view, that sometimes a "loss" is not so bad, after all.

The story goes that this lawyer called me. To start the conversation, he began telling me about how he had just "wiped the floor" with a poor old ADA over in Bossier. He was so excited and went on and on about how he had just run all over Whit Graves in Bossier.

Hearing his excitement, I asked, "so you walked your client out of court a free man in Bossier today," as that would have been something to get excited about. The lawyer fired back, "No, I didn't walk him, he went to jail!" Dumfounded, I asked, "I thought you said you wiped the floor with the assistant district attorney." Then, he hit me with it, "He was found guilty as charged on the first three counts, but on the 4th count I got a responsive verdict!"

The next time I saw Whit, I couldn't wait to tell him this story. Soon enough, I did see him outside the Bossier Court House. I said, "Whit, you must be one hell of a prosecutor." In his good humor, he said, "I'd like to think I am." I said, well I had a lawyer tell me the other day that he just "wiped the floor" with you. Whit was like, "How's that?"



I said, "Whit, this guy thought it was a big win, when he got a responsive verdict on the fourth count of a four count bill of information!" Whit and I laughed. Whit said, "Kenny, if a responsive verdict on the fourth count of a four count bill of information is my worst loss, I'm gonna have one hell of a record at the end of this career." And he did have a very successful career.

Whit passed away peacefully in his home with family on September 14, 2024. He was born on October 29, 1954 in Shreveport. Though his travels would take him to many places around the world, he loved northwest Louisiana and wanted to make a difference in Bossier and Webster Parishes. So, he remained here throughout his life and worked tirelessly giving back to the community that raised him.

Some might remember Whit as a bit of a renegade, but he truly had public service in his heart. At 19, Whit became the youngest-ever Louisiana State Trooper and spent 11 years with the State Police, not including his four years as a criminal investigator working undercover and two years with the Federal Drug Enforcement Task Force. Whit told many fantastical stories about his time working with heroic (and sometimes rowdy) friends and colleagues. His favorite activity as a police officer was checking and replacing brake lights for motorists on slower days.

After his service with the State Police, Whit put himself through law school at LSU Baton Rouge. Upon graduation, he was hired by Henry Brown and worked as an assistant district attorney in Bossier and Webster Parishes for 12 years. In 2001, Whit left the DA's office to open his own private practice, focusing on criminal defense for DWI arrests.

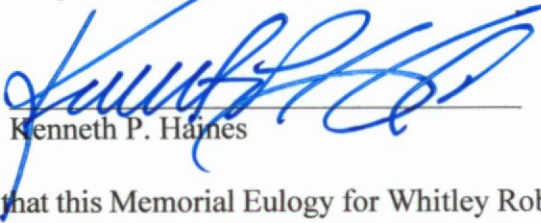
Throughout his life, Whit maintained friendships and built a vast chosen family through various fraternities and social and religious organizations, including DeMolay, El Karubah Shriners, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Royal Order of Jesters, Krewe of Justinian, and memberships at various Christian Methodist Episcopal and United Methodist churches.

My wife, Brenda and I, got to know Whit and his wife, Robin, on the top of the Krewe of Justinian float. When I was in charge of either the krewe or the float, I liked to position Whit and Robin next to me and my family. We had fun on those parade nights. And, Whit and Robin were some of the first to notice that the Captain or Float Lieutenant always had their beads and throws situated for them on ride day. Where some might expect such service, Whit was quick to shout out a thank you, with that great big smile. I think it was because Whit knew what hard work meant, having engaged in it most of his life.

Whit's mom and dad, Bonnie Dell and Kenneth Graves, Sr. predeceased him, as did his brother, Kenneth, Jr., who Whit proudly supported through dental school. He is survived by his wife, Robin Rue, his son, Michael Graves and stepson, Garrett Jones.

While Whit was a celebrated law enforcement official and attorney, his most notable role was that of husband and father. Whit, his wife, and children made many memories together traveling the world. His friends and family will most miss his wise guidance on the back porch, uplifting spirit in the "bar," and friendly smile everywhere he went. After a tough day in the Bossier Court, I miss him too, because it was always a "pick me up" to hear Whit say that everything was "just lovely!"

Respectfully submitted,

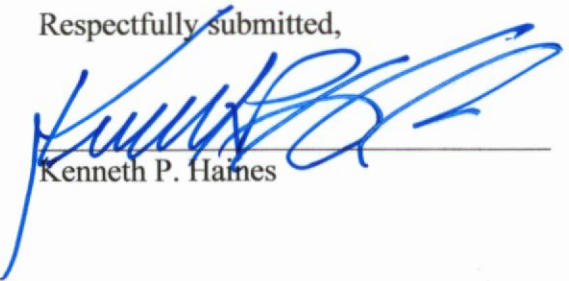


Kenneth P. Haines

Your Honors, I now move to request that this Memorial Eulogy for Whitley Robert Graves be duly recorded on this 6th day of November, 2025, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that copies be delivered to Whitley Robert Graves' family.

Thank you, Your Honors.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth P. Haines