

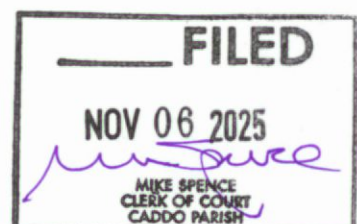
**MEMORIAL FOR  
WILLIAM H. (BILL) LEDBETTER, JR.  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
NOVEMBER 6, 2025  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

GOOD AFTERNOON YOUR HONORS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

It is my honor and privilege to present the following in memory and recognition of William H. (Bill) Ledbetter, Jr. Bill was born January 2, 1943, in Fayetteville, La. and passed peacefully with his family May 26, 2025. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his children Trey, Ryan, Jason, Craig, and Heather; and grand and great grandchildren and family too numerous to mention here.

Bill grew up in Cheneyville, Louisiana where according to him he graduated in the top ten of his High School but would quickly acknowledge there were only seven (7) in the Class of 1960. After high school he attended McNeese State University on a partial baseball scholarship, where he also joined the ROTC program and earned a commission as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He graduated with an accounting degree but decided to pursue the law because according to him "I had the obvious misconception that one could easily be involved in politics as an honest attorney." Obviously, Bill chose to remain an honest attorney since he never pursued public office.

Bill attended LSU Law School from 1964-1967 and shortly after passing the bar in 1967 began his practice in Alexandria, La. focusing on Family Law and Estate Planning. In 1968 he was sent to Long Binh, Vietnam, where he served as commanding officer of the 56<sup>th</sup> Army Postal Unit. He received multiple commendations for his service, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Unit Emblem. He continued reunions with his unit just a few years ago.



After approximately ten (10) years of practice in Alexandria, Bill moved his practice to Bossier City in 1981 and married Barbara Craig Bradford, with whom he shared the rest of his life. Bill's life and career in Bossier City grew quickly due to his honesty and his faith. Whether you were a client or a professional acquaintance it would be rare for a conversation with Bill to end without you hearing about his faith in Jesus Christ. Bill was generous with his time and his money and would donate both to organizations, schools, missions, and lost causes because he believed that God blessed him so he could bless others. He treated his clients with respect and his colleagues with professional courtesy; he was never a push-over but always fair.

In 1996 Bill took on an associate, not because he needed another lawyer in his office, but out of devotion to family and his generosity previously mentioned. I was that associate, with a newly printed law license and no idea what to do with it, Bill gave me a job and taught me what law school could not; how to be a lawyer. I quickly learned that words like honor, integrity, fairness, and honesty are not just something to use on letterhead or advertisement, they are what make up your character and reputation as a lawyer. I watched Bill manage clients and other professionals with dignity and respect without giving up an inch of ground on his position. In the time I spent under his mentorship he emphasized three (3) things that have stuck with me for the last 30 years:

1. Keep up with your time and bill your clients fairly and you will have all the business you want to handle.
2. Never be afraid to admit when you are wrong and be prepared to do whatever it takes to make it right; but when you are right stand your ground no matter how unpopular it is.
3. Love the Lord your God and his son Jesus Christ above all else and the rest will work itself out.

Bill knew that there was no secret to being successful because you are the only person who can define your success. He would always tell me "Don't be so hard on yourself, no lawyer wins every case."

On May 26, 2025, our legal community lost a gentle titan that embodied what it meant to be a lawyer. No fancy or expensive advertisements, just word of mouth, community involvement and fair treatment of clients built a practice most sole

practitioners could not handle on their own. Bill will be missed, but his legacy leaves an example all attorneys should model.

Your honors, I now move to request that this Memorial Eulogy for William H. (Bill) Ledbetter, Jr. be duly recorded on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that copies be delivered to Bill's family.

Respectfully Submitted,



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HONORABLE MICHAEL O. CRAIG  
BAR ROLL# 24060