

**MEMORIAL FOR
JUDGE C.J. (NEAL) BOLIN, JR.
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 30, 2007
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Fellow Judges, family members, friends and fellow members of the bar:

A man of honor, truth, justice and compassion, Judge C.J. (Neal) Bolin, Jr., was a role model and inspiration. He passed away in Shreveport on July 2, 2007, at the age of 82, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease.

The son of C. J. Bolin, Sr., and Annie Walker Bolin, Judge Bolin was born in Mansfield, LA on December 1, 1924. The family moved to Shreveport and he attended public schools, graduating from C. E. Byrd High School in 1941. He then joined the Navy and compiled a three and one-half (3 ½) year war record during World War II. After his military service, he enrolled at LSU and, because he felt his true calling was to the law, he entered the LSU Law School and graduated with his Law Degree in 1951.

He returned to Shreveport and entered private law practice with his father under the firm name of Bolin and Bolin. He engaged in private practice until 1957, when he joined the Caddo Parish District Attorney's staff. He served as an assistant District Attorney for eleven (11) years before being elected in 1968 to his first term as District Judge of the First Judicial District Court. Thereafter, he was re-elected without opposition for three more terms in succession. He served as Chief Judge of the Court on two occasions between 1979 and 1988. Although he retired from active judicial service in December of 1990, he was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as Judge Pro Tempore to handle many difficult cases, and he served in this capacity from 1990 until 2001.

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He was a member of the Shreveport Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and its Section on Judicial Administration and the American Judicature Society. He also served on the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, the Judicial Planning Council of Louisiana and the Judicial Council of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He was active in the 40 & 8 Society, the Lowe-McFarland Post No. 14 of the American Legion and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He was also a past President of the Shreveport Kiwanis Club.

His camp on Caddo Lake was his favorite spot. With his family and friends, many wonderful hours were spent boating, fishing, hunting and horse-back riding. Of course, he loved his family first and foremost, and it was this love and devotion which illuminated his life and enriched his spirit.

Madeline Morvant Bolin of Crowley, stole his heart and was the love of his life. They married in 1947. They had six (6) lovely children; Madeline B. Nance, John H. Bolin, Adele Hartrick, Louis Robert Bolin, Louise Jeanise Mulcahy and Martin B. Bolin. There are eleven (11) grandchildren.

Those of us who served with Judge Bolin on the District Court know especially well what a fine man and a great trial judge he was. He was a great trial judge because he first was a good man with the highest moral qualities which allowed him to judge not only with intellect and knowledge, but also with heart. His thirst for justice was founded upon his goodness as a man. As a trial judge he listened well and kept an open mind. He considered carefully all sides of each controversy, whether the matter was a civil dispute or a criminal case. He truly believed that every case was important and he recognized that a person's appearance before the court is certainly one of the most important events in that person's life.

He dispensed justice evenly to all who came before his court. He never lost sight of his role as a protector of individual rights, but he also considered the effects of his decisions on the rights and expectations of society as a whole so that law and order could be maintained.

He had an unusually judicious temperament. He listened intently to all arguments. He was affable and kindly to counsel and all parties in Court. When he differed, he differed with courtesy. He was kind every time he could be, but he was also tough when he needed to be. He was a judge's judge; fair, temperate, diligent, balanced, polite and courteous, yet with the cutting edge of a keen and analytical intellect and the force of a strong character able to decide quickly and surely. He was seldom reversed.

Judge Bolin was a mentor to others, both to new lawyers and new judges. He loved dealing with new lawyers who were beginning their careers, as many here today are doing. He recognized that, sometimes, new lawyers may struggle a bit in presenting their cases in court. Of course, in our adversarial system of justice, a judge must never favor one side or the other, and Judge Bolin never did. But he had a knack and ability to move a case along without ever embarrassing or belittling anyone in the courtroom. He asked his colleagues on the Bench to frequently recall that, although all lawyers are representing a client and must be required to do so competently and ethically, young lawyers may sometimes need constructive guidance – not public criticism.

In his relationships with other judges he was a true friend. His door was always open to judges to discuss their problems. He was not there to make their decisions, but through discussion and the asking of the right questions, he could lead the judge in the right direction. He was always helpful in giving needed advice.

During his terms as Chief Judge, his was clearly the voice of stability. He believed that, as much as possible, the Court should speak with one voice and that the public expected the Court to be a stable institution. In the administration of the business of the Court, he showed great discretion in the discussion of issues between judges, but once a decision was made, he stood behind the Court's decision, whether or not he agreed. His leadership style as Chief Judge was genial and diplomatic and his exceptional ability at harmonizing diverse views and personalities

made our weekly judicial luncheons enjoyable sessions of good will --- most of the time.

His service as Chief Judge encompassed periods of stress and change. In the 1980's when the jails were full, Judge Bolin headed the efforts to ease overcrowding by the use of ROR's, work release and cooperative agreements with other agencies. His efforts and leadership eased the crises, while, at the same time, ensuring the safety of the public.

Many books have been written concerning the numerous traits which a trial judge should possess. Some of those traits have already been discussed, but the most important of those traits appear to be: moral courage, decisiveness, a reputation for fairness, patience, dignity and consideration for others. Judge Bolin possessed all these traits in an exemplary manner. He considered each case before him fairly and open-mindedly, always seeking justice. In all of his actions, he wanted the public to have confidence in the integrity of the courts and in our judicial system. He believed, and often said, that our government could only endure through the strength of an independent judiciary, and that it is to the Courts that our citizens look, as their protectors, in their quest for liberty and justice.

Several years ago, one of the telephone companies came out with a slogan which said:

“Reach out and touch someone.”

Judge Bolin did just that --- he reached out and touched the lives of many people;

He reached out and touched the lives of his colleagues on the Bench;

He reached out and touched the lives of the lawyers and litigants who appeared in his court. When a case was over, they knew they had been before a “real judge” and that justice had been served;

He reached out and touched the public, the Parish and the State as he selflessly served in their times of need;

He reached out and touched his lovely wife, Madeline, and all his children and grandchildren, of whom he was so very proud;

And he reached out and touched all of us who have such great respect for the man and his accomplishments.

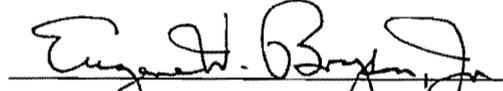
He was a grand friend, lawyer, mentor and confidant, and he was a trial judge whose talents, ability and personality will be sorely missed by the Bench, the Bar and the citizens of this community.

Your Honors, the Committee moves that this memorial be spread upon the minutes of this Honorable Court and that copies be delivered to the family.

Respectfully submitted:



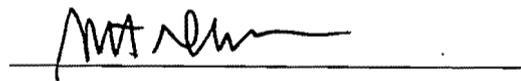
Judge Charles R. Lindsay



Judge Eugene W. Bryson, Jr.



Judge Charles R. Scott



Judge Scott Crichton



Judge Fred Sexton, Jr.