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**MEMORIAL
CASPER ARDIS TOOKE, JR.
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 30, 2001
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

CASPER ARDIS TOOKE (Casper to some, but "C.A." to his family and friends) was born to a prominent Bienville Parish family on July 12, 1914 in Arcadia, Louisiana and died in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana on May 3, 2001. He was preceded in death by his parents, Casper Ardis Tooke, Sr. and Maza Runge Tooke, natives of Bienville Parish, but longtime residents of Shreveport. C.A.'s paternal grandfather, James Wimberly Tooke, was the Clerk of Court in Bienville Parish in 1893 when citizens hitched mules and wagons and moved the public records from Sparta to Arcadia, in the dead of night, following an election to move the parish seat closer to the railroad. As a result he grew up in Arcadia, instead of Mt. Lebanon from whence his father and all his uncles hailed.

Casper attended public schools in Arcadia, graduating from Arcadia High School in 1928. Following high school, he attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where he was initiated in the Phi Delta Theta national fraternity, returning to graduate from Centenary College in Shreveport. After undergraduate school, C.A. received his law degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, having been President of his class during his tenure.

Upon his entrance into the practice of law, Casper Ardis Tooke came to the big city of Shreveport in the late 1930's to begin the challenge of a legal career. However, the onset of World War II presented him with the first of two formidable challenges which were to inform the fabric of his life. In 1942, after practicing for several years, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Army, specifically, the 101st Airborne Division. Completing training at Fort Benning, Georgia, England welcomed him along with thousands of other young Americans. On June 5, 1944, he was selected along with four others of his Signal Corps mates, out of a crowd, and moved to another staging area.

Escaping the initial jump on D-Day into Normandy, C.A. glided behind enemy lines on the 6th to establish communication points. Seeing action for several intense months, he was eventually mustered back to England for rest and relaxation. On September 17, 1944, C.A. was once again in a glider with the 101st as a participant in "Operation Market Garden", the Battle for Arnheim in Belgium, famous as "a bridge too far."

Retrenching back into France with other units of the 101st, the Red Ball Express delivered

elements to a small, but important junction of roads in France --- Bastogne. On December 16, 1944, exploiting a thin line of defense in the Ardennes Forest, forces of the German Army began the Battle of the Bulge and for the next month, C.A. and the Airborne were surrounded by elite elements of German infantry, artillery and panzers. For thirty days, while diving into basements and ditches during constant shelling and eating pancakes three times a day, of necessity, the 101st held out until General Patton relieved Bastogne. The 101st received the Presidential Unit Citation as a result and Casper Ardis Tooke, Jr., a volunteer enlisted man, received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant. Somewhere in the scuffle, C.A. also earned a Purple Heart.

The Battle of the Bulge was over in early 1945 and as the axis retreated toward Berlin, the 101st Airborne along with the massed allied forces drove them on. In the end, C.A. Tooke entered the German capital as World War II concluded.

After the war, C.A. returned to Shreveport to continue the practice of law with his first cousin, Charles E. Tooke, Jr. Married to Beverly Bennett Tooke, there came on four children: Francis Ellen Tooke Cooper, who passed from this life far too soon, Mary Ardis Tooke Frederick, Martha Anne Tooke Frederick and Casper Ardis Tooke III.

However, following the war, and, as he related, as a consequence of the war, C.A. faced his second formidable challenge — alcoholism. An habitue' of the Columbia Restaurant and other local watering holes of the 1950's, Casper admittedly off-kilter from shell shock, descended into the depths of alcohol dependency which colored every phase of his life. Those in Alcoholics Anonymous who regard him as a beacon for recovery, explain that by dint of personality and the strong support of Beverly, C.A. Tooke took his last drink in 1957. But, the test was not done. In 1959, his beloved Beverly died of cancer, leaving him to raise four (4) children on his own, arguably a third formidable challenge.

Following the death of his beloved Beverly, he moved his practice to the curved building on Creswell, where Kings Highway makes the 'S' curve, with Robert Eatman, Sr. For the next twelve years, C.A. was associated with, inter alia, Dee Alexander, Bill Lynch, Buddy Rogers, John Morgan, Chris Barnette and Leroy Smallenberger, who later became Bankruptcy Judge in the Louisiana Western District Court.

It was in the 1960's when C.A. began what essentially became his raison d'etre until his health failed him. Long the senior lawyer in the local Lawyers' Alcoholics Anonymous Group, he was a member long before such groups were viewed as positive steps to recovery. Further, following his

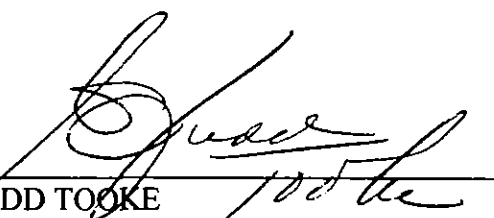
retirement in 1972, Casper began volunteer work at the Veterans Administration Hospital on Stoner Avenue and for years to come, worked with Veterans overcome by alcohol and chemical dependence. By his contemporaries in Lawyers' Alcoholics Anonymous, he is seen as an inspiration for generations of "lawyers afflicted", for whatever reason, by an addictive dependence.

In 1967, C.A. met and married Doris Godsey and they remained married for the next 32 years until her death in 1999. Doris was C.A.'s companion until the end and she not only participated with him in the volunteer work so central to him, Doris became a second mother to Francis, Mary, Martha and Ardis. She truly is part and parcel of this memorial.

C.A. Tooke was indeed a member of the "greatest generation", called upon by events in Europe. And, C.A. is an example of the unseen price that many members of that generation paid. C.A. rose to the challenge and we remember him for his valor.

And now to Mary, Martha, Ardis and in the memory of Francis, we submit this brief and inadequate memorial to the memory of CASPER ARDIS TOOKE and ask that it be inscribed in the records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and that certified copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October, 2001.


S. JUDD TOOKE