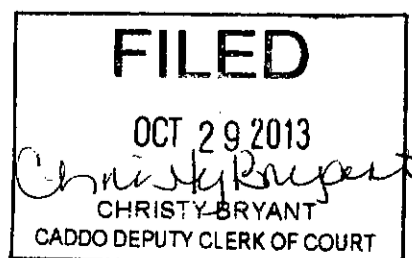


**MEMORIAL FOR  
DONALD L. BAKER  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
HELD IN THE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
OCTOBER 29, 2013  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

Don Baker was a good and honorable man and a very traditional and principled lawyer with the utmost integrity. He was also a great husband to our mother, Carrie Baker, and a fabulous Daddy to me, my three sisters who are here today, my brother who lives in British Columbia and my brother who passed away 35 years ago. This is a very special occasion for us because, as I said in Daddy's eulogy a year ago, he always attended this ceremony because he was afraid that if he didn't show up people would think he had died. He did die on Oct. 22, 2012, and now it is time to honor him in the presence of his peers.

Don Baker was born in St. Cloud, Florida, on March 25, 1915. His earliest memories there were of a man he admired and aspired to be like because he had a cart and a horse all to himself. Those were few and far between then. At an early age he moved with his parents to St. Petersburg, where he graduated from St. Petersburg High School as senior class president. He then attended Florida Military Academy. On a break from there, he visited with a friend one year ahead of him who had headed west to LSU. As Daddy told us a million times, Joe Lowry proclaimed that "Huey Long had made LSU a place where a poor boy could go to school." Daddy's father responded, "That's you, son," so Daddy and nine of his friends came to Louisiana to attend LSU. He didn't really know yet what he wanted to do after college but he started meeting with a group of pre-law students in discussion groups. He enjoyed the intellectual nature of those gatherings so much that he went on to LSU Law School, where he graduated in 1940. He had started dating "that cute little redhead" in the law office where he served as a gopher, and since she was from Louisiana, it looked like this is where he would stay. They married in 1941 and had been married for 67 years when she passed away in 2008.



When Daddy was 15 he was offered a job as a car hop at the pier in St. Petersburg. His father really didn't want him to take the job, saying the he would be working for a long time and shouldn't start so early. Little did Daddy know when he took that job that it was the start of 81 years of continuous work. After law school Daddy began to practice law with Turner Morgan in Shreveport. The firm later became Morgan, Baker, Skeels, Middleton and Coleman. Many of Shreveport's finest attorneys passed through that firm at one time or another – Judge Charles Lindsay, Troy Bain, Steve Beadles, Bill Fleming and Charles Strickland, to name just a few. I am sure I am forgetting some and I apologize to those I have omitted. In 1990 Daddy became "Of Counsel" with Coleman & Mayo and practiced with Ben Coleman and Bob Mayo until 2011, a year after we had given him a retirement party on his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. The day we were packing up and moving his office furniture out, he dressed as he always did for work – in a suit and tie and his legendary hat. Don Baker was always recognized throughout downtown by his seersucker suits and hats. Our sister Carolyn remembers as we were waiting for the elevator that Daddy said he was really going to miss coming to the office. And he did.

On his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday I called Daddy from Oregon at 9:30 am, thinking that because it was his birthday maybe he had gone in a little late. To my shock, though it shouldn't have been, Pat Broussard, his loyal secretary informed me that Daddy was in Benton representing someone in court.

Growing up with Daddy as a lawyer was an enriching, wonderful experience. Don Baker believed that lawyers are public servants and are meant to help people. Thus, we never moved to Spring Lake when it was the hot new neighborhood in town; rather, we stayed in the Broadmoor house that he had built in 1952. We always had chickens and greens in our refrigerator because if that was the only way a client could pay, Daddy accepted that as his fee. Whenever we came home from school and saw a "new" used TV in the den, we knew that Bobby, Daddy's client who owned a TV repair shop, had needed Daddy's legal services. Daddy's service to this Bar Association was something that we were always so proud of. He was instrumental in integrating this Bar when Jesse Stone returned to Shreveport from law school. He helped with the initiation of legal services for the indigent.

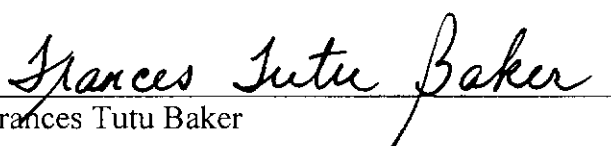
He always stood behind his values and principles and fought for them. From age 94 – 97, whenever he knew about a Bar luncheon that sounded interesting he'd have me take him. In his last couple of years he got to hear Wilbert Rideau and the attorney for the OKC bomber speak at those luncheons.

I am the only one of the six children who followed in Daddy's footsteps and became a lawyer. Ultimately though, Daddy had three sons-in-law, two grandsons and a grandson-in-law who are lawyers. Our brother, Don Jr., said that he didn't become a lawyer because he didn't want to be judged by a judge or jury; he wanted to do the judging. I think I did it because I enjoyed arguing with Daddy.

A few final words about Don Baker – he was a character – so intellectually curious, social, happy, direct, kind, filled with his Catholic faith, wise, compassionate, funny, the ultimate lecturer and a loyal Democrat to the end. He always saw the good in every situation and every person. He knew how to comfort and advise. He never held a grudge. He was full of forgiveness and always helped others. He always told us, his children, that anything we did we would do well and that we could do anything we set our minds to. He believed in us and he believed in his fellow man and the goodness of humanity. He was a good and honorable man, full of integrity until the very end. The Shreveport Bar Association is better for having had Don Baker as a member for almost 70 years.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, we submit this memorial to the memory of Donald L. Baker, and we move that it be subscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that appropriate copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 29th day of October, 2013, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

  
Frances Tutu Baker



*Shreveport Bar Association*

*Memorial & Recognition Ceremony*

*Tuesday, October 29, 2013  
2:30 P.M.*

*Courtroom G, Caddo Parish Courthouse*



*Printing Compliments of  
Choice Professional Overnight Copy Service*



*Court reporter: Christina Wallace*

**SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION  
2013 MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY**

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Opening of Court ..... **HON. ROBERT P. WADDELL**  
*Chief Judge, First Judicial District Court*

Welcome ..... **WILLIAM F. KENDIG, JR.**  
*President, Shreveport Bar Association*

Invocation ..... **HELEN GODFREY-SMITH, SENIOR PASTOR**  
*Greater Provision Christian Church*

General Eulogy ..... **LAURA PETERSON BUTLER**  
*Ceremony Chairperson*

**NEW ATTORNEYS**

- Trey Carter
- Stuart Crichton
- Meagan Dilbeck
- Brian Flanagan
- Shanerika Flemings
- Elizabeth Grozinger
- David Henken
- Franklin Weber Hill
- Harry Johnson
- Steve Kelley
- Richard D. Lamb, III
- Allison M. Lockhart
- Rebecca S. Luster
- Drew Martin
- Linda Georgina Matta
- Parker W. Maxwell
- Ebonee Norris
- Jordan R. Parker
- Thomas A. Pressly, IV
- William Priestley
- Emily Lauren Settle
- Zachary Alan Shadinger
- Paul Shelton
- Sarah Margaret Smith
- Jessica F. Snyder
- Ross E. Tuminello
- Timothy R. Wynn

**IN MEMORIAM**

- Donald L. Baker*
- Jack Raymond Brown*
- Honorable James E. "Jim/Buck" Clark*
- Alma Salter Jones*
- Honorable Cecil C. Lowe*

**PRESENTERS**

- Frances Tutu Baker*
- Ted Casten*
- Laura Peterson Butler*
- Jacqueline Scott*
- William F. Kendig, Jr.*

Introduction of New Attorneys ..... **B. SLATTERY JOHNSON, JR.**  
*President, Young Lawyers Section  
Shreveport Bar Association*

Recognition of New Attorneys ..... **HON. ROBERT P. WADDELL**

Benediction ..... **THE REVERNEND MARY B. RICHARD**  
*The Church of the Holy Cross, Episcopal*

*"The precepts of law are these: To live honorably,  
To injure no other man and to render every man his due."  
Justinian, 527-565 AD*