

**MEMORIAL FOR
DONALD FENTON OVERDYKE, III
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES
HELD IN THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 30, 2001
UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

Donald Fenton Overdyke, III, was born on April 26, 1947, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Dr. and Mrs. Donald F. Overdyke, Jr. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Nancy Adger.

Dee, as he was known to all, graduated from Byrd High School, attended LSU and, in 1972, received his Juris Doctorate degree from LSU Law School.

Following graduation, he was admitted to the Louisiana Bar and, in 1972, Dee began the practice of law with the firm of Goode & Goode, and later, when he became a partner, Goode, Goode & Overdyke. In 1977, he joined, as a partner, the firm of Naff, Kennedy, Goodman, Stephens, Donovan & Parnell, later renamed Kennedy, Goodman and Donovan, where we practiced together for a number of years. In 1988, he joined the Shreveport office of the New Orleans firm of Brooke, Morial, Cassibry, Fraiche & Pizza. Thereafter, he practiced with the firm of Overdyke & Clawson until his untimely death on October 3, 2000.

I will be forever grateful for the years Dee and I practiced law together. He was a true friend from whom I learned much. When I think of Dee, I think of his integrity, his intelligence, his fierce loyalty to his clients, his love and respect for his family, and his sense of humor. (More about that sense of humor and his family later.)

Dee's practice was a commercial practice, primarily transactional. He had the capacity to prepare complicated and thorough agreements "off the top of his head," often before the rest of us had found our checklists and forms. His usually looked better and were more comprehensive than mine. He seemed to have an innate sense of what was important, how to address it and what was unimportant.

I mentioned Dee's sense of humor. Dee simply refused to let any situation become too tense. I have seen Dee walk into the most hostile conference room or courtroom, survey the antagonistic

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adversary or judge, then launch into an outrageous joke, easing the tension. Candidly, the jokes were seldom funny but were always effective. The adversary was often disarmed and always became Dee's friend. That was how Dee developed his joke network. In the days before e-mail, Dee received calls and faxes daily from lawyers from Boston to Los Angeles, for the sole purpose of trading jokes.

Dee loved life, and he worked that into his practice. A good friend of Dee's remembers the afternoon he received a call from Dee saying that it was time to get together to review the proposed sale of a client's business and to prepare the documents. It was a beautiful day and the location of that meeting was Dee's beloved sailboat on Cross Lake. I have no doubt the client received his money's worth. I remember a cold, cold day on his sailboat when Dee had invited the singing group the Lettermen (who were in town for a Holiday in Dixie concert) to sail. Years afterward, at the mention of Shreveport, one of the Lettermen could only talk about freezing one afternoon on this crazy fellow's sailboat. Dee prided himself on his sailing ability and he accomplished something few people have done on Cross Lake - he ran his boat aground in mid-lake and was forced to spend the night.

Dee was involved in a number of civic organizations but I remember particularly when he was a Holiday in Dixie Vice-President. Dee wrote the clues for the Treasure Hunt for many years. It was a challenge to him to write clues that were factual and kept the Treasure Hunt going for days. If you thought the clues cryptic, now you know why. Dee did things with a flair. He'd laugh at me for saying so, but he had a delightful "joie de vivre."

I mentioned that his practice was primarily a commercial one. That was not his only talent. It will not surprise you to know that Dee handled a case before the United States Supreme Court. It may surprise you to know that it was a criminal case and he obtained a reversal of the client's conviction. A proud accomplishment for any of us.

Family was paramount for Dee. In 1969, he married Rebecca Haile Hughes, his lifelong sweetheart. Anyone who knew Dee, knew his devotion to Becky. She and their two children were truly the light of his life. Their son, Fenton, and his wife, Heather, live in Columbia, South Carolina,

and their daughter, Lisa, lives in Ft. Worth. He was very close to his sister, Nancy; her husband, Jim Adger; and his brother, Bill.

With Dee's passing, the Bar lost an exceptional lawyer. His family and friends lost a good man. To Becky, Fenton, Lisa, Bill, Jim and innumerable friends, I submit this Memorial Resolution to this Honorable Court and ask that it be inscribed on the records of this Court and a certified copy presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of October, 2001.



JOHN M. FRAZIER