

FILED

OCT 28 1988

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE EUGENE HEARN

W. H. Smith
DEPUTY CLERK

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MEMBERS OF THE BAR, MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF GEORGE EUGENE HEARN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

We are here today to honor the memory of George Eugene Hearn who was born in Shreveport on May 17, 1960. Gene was reared in Shreveport and Pineville by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. George Earl Hearn of Pineville, and is survived by both parents, by his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia Gail Hearn Smith and Andrew Smith, two nieces, Angela Gail and Allison Grace, all of Birmingham, and by his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Peters Hearn of Shreveport.

Gene was a member of the Shreveport legal community for only a short time. Many of you here did not have the pleasure of knowing him. However, we would all do well to take a close look at his law school experience and legal career and set it as an example of faith, strength, and courage.

Gene had a dream to be a trial lawyer, but just after his graduation with honors from Baylor University, he learned of his affliction with Hodgkin's Disease. The treatment that began that summer at M.D. Anderson in Houston culminated in surgery only a week before his classes at LSU Law School were to begin. During that difficult freshman year, Gene enjoyed a good prognosis which indicated that his cancer was in remission.

However, in the spring of his junior year, when the demands of his schooling were at their height, his symptoms returned. While his classmates spent their weekends studying or relaxing, Gene spent most of his driving to Houston or Jackson for treatment and therapy.

This continued until his final semester when, early in 1986, even this regimen was no longer sufficient to combat his disease. He was forced to move to Houston for full-time care. With the help of his family, he took this in stride, arranging to complete his course work at the Southwestern School of Law in Houston.

Gene was faced with the realization that no matter how hard he studied and no matter how well he performed, there was a possibility he would not survive law school. But he did. And he did so in an exemplary fashion, graduating with his class - on time - and with scholastic honors. His professors and classmates all recognized Gene's unrelenting fighting spirit which pushed him to succeed.

And succeed he did. Despite their knowledge of Gene's questionable health, preeminent law firms in the area recruited him. Ultimately, he accepted a clerkship with Judge Marvin of the Second Circuit Court of Appeal. Throughout his tenure with Judge Marvin, Gene still wrestled with his disease although it again appeared to have gone into remission. During that period, he accepted a position with the firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin, & Roberts. By this time, his health prospects were bright and he was looking forward to developing his practice.

In the spring of 1987, his cancer began badgering him once again. His health went from good to bad and back again requiring continual trips to Houston for treatment. Notwithstanding the pain, Gene eagerly seized the opportunity to learn the skills of the trial lawyer -- attending depositions, preparing and arguing motions, advising clients, and generally acquainting himself with the vagaries of practicing law. But he was never to try a case.

For, at the end of 1987, Gene would begin the most extensive treatment he had yet received.

The doctors in Houston, unable to offer any further hope, referred him to Johns Hopkins Medical Research Center for experimental treatment. At times it seemed to help and at other times the prospects dimmed. When the doctors finally decided there was no further course of treatment left to pursue, Gene was given the choice of being hospitalized in Houston, his home town of Pineville, or Shreveport. Gene chose to return to Shreveport so he could stay close to the law practice for which he had worked so hard. It was here at Schumpert Medical Center that Gene died on Wednesday morning, June 8, 1988.

Gene's partners remember him for his determination. Because of the tumor in his left hip, he was on crutches. Stairs posed a formidable obstacle. Yet Gene would be seen throwing his crutches up the stairs of the parking garage and pulling himself up after them to get to work.

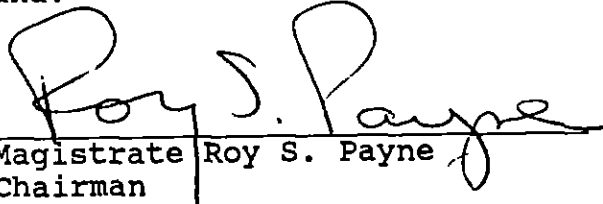
He is also remembered for his legal acumen. In the final days of his practice, Gene was called on to advise a client on a complex issue of corporate law affecting it in several states. The resulting memorandum was so well received by the client that it was circulated around the country to guide their counsel in similar circumstances.


Gene fought and he suffered; but to anyone who would listen, he readily affirmed his faith and love for his Lord, his friends, his family, and his chosen profession. One sees in Gene's life a tremendous example of the fighting spirit and courage with which every successful trial lawyer is blessed. One of Gene's very few regrets in his life was that he was unable to practice law as he had always dreamed he could. If we look at the few months we had with Gene and ponder his personality and spirit, that should be our regret as well.

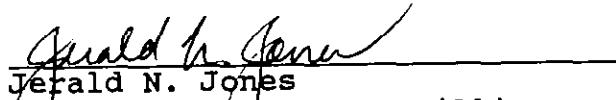
WHEREAS, the passing of George Eugene Hearn has taken from the ranks of the Shreveport Bar Association one of its promising young members,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shreveport Bar Association adopts and records this memorial as a testimonial and tribute to the memory of its departed member, GEORGE EUGENE HEARN, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to the members of his family.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED this 28th day of October, 1988 in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.


Magistrate Roy S. Payne
Chairman


Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr.
Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin &
Roberts


Jerald N. Jones
Wilkinson, Carmody & Gilliam