

FILED

IN MEMORIAM

OCT 28 1985

W. C. Price Jr.
DEPUTY CLERK

JUDGE HARRISON WELBORN AYRES

Honorable Judges, Members of the Bar,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are privileged today to pay tribute to the memory of one of the truly dedicated members of the legal profession whose service as a lawyer and judge covered a span of nearly 50 years.

Harrison Welborn Ayres was born in 1900 at Ashland in Natchitoches Parish. He graduated from high school in that community in 1918 and shortly thereafter began his studies at Louisiana State University. Because of adverse economic circumstances he left Louisiana State University before obtaining his degree and sought employment as a school teacher. After a period of teaching and working in the oil field, he entered the Louisiana State University Law School in 1921 and studied law until the death of his father prevented him from completing his law studies at the University.

He became employed by a railroad as a clerk operator, and continued the private study of law. In 1926 he passed the State Bar Examination and was licensed to practice by the Supreme Court.

Judge Ayres carried on an active practice of law in Jonesboro from 1927 until his election as District Judge for the Second Judicial District in December 1942. He began his service on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal on January 1, 1954, and served on that court until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75 on April 30, 1975. Judge Ayres served as Chief Judge during his last six years on the Court.

While serving as a District Judge for Jackson, Bienville and Claiborne Parishes, Judge Ayres also served as Judge in Lincoln, Union, Webster and Winn Parishes by special assignment of the Supreme Court. While on the appellate court he was assigned by the Supreme Court to sit on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal and as a member of the Supreme Court on occasions.

Judge Ayres was a man of high moral standards and of sterling character whose lifestyle brought dignity and respect to the courts on which he served. His absolute sense of fairness earned him the respect of both litigants and lawyers.

Judge Ayres was a student of the law and a very capable writer who authored 1,181 opinions while on the appellate court. He believed in the adherence to fundamental principals of law and was proud of our Louisiana Civil Law heritage. Since his opinions contain such a complete review and summary of the law surrounding the questions at issue, they have been and will continue to be of invaluable assistance to the members of the bar.

Judge Ayres had an unusual memory and he could recall, in detail, most of the important events which happened during his lifetime. This remarkable ability contributed greatly to his success as a lawyer and judge.

Above all else however, Judge Ayres should be remembered for his willingness to help others. In his quiet and unassuming manner he was always available to share the wisdom gained from years of experience with younger members of the judiciary and the bar. He was also kind and considerate of those he worked with and was loved and respected by the judges and staff of the Court of Appeal on which he served for 21 years. One of his finest characteristics was his sense of humor. He delighted his friends with his stories and anecdotes, always told with a chuckle and a twinkle in his eye.

By his long and exemplary record of service in the judiciary of this state, Judge Ayres has left a legacy in which his family and friends can take great pride.

Judge Ayres enjoyed a long and happy family life with his wife Edna Ewing Ayres to whom he was married on December 21, 1929. Their marriage was blessed with one son, James E. Ayres, whose marriage to Susan Merle Lloyd gave the Ayres family two

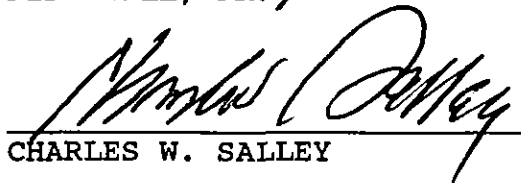
grandchildren, Laura Jean and Lee Ayres. James followed in his father's footsteps to engage in the practice of law and Lee is carrying on the tradition of his grandfather as he is presently enrolled in the Louisiana State University Law School. We extend our deepest sympathy to these members of the family.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Shreveport Bar Association adopt and record this memorial as a testimonial and tribute to the memory of Judge H. W. Ayres and that copies of this resolution be delivered to his family.

Respectfully submitted,


O. E. PRICE


PIKE HALL, JR.


CHARLES W. SALLEY

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE