

**FILED**

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*W. P. ...*  
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MEMORIAL  
HORACE M. HOLDER  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES HELD  
IN THE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION.

Horace M. Holder was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on April 19, 1913 and died in this City on December 19, 1989 at the age of 76. Horace was in every sense of the word a self-made man. Horace's father, a Methodist minister, died when Horace was only 5 or 6 years old. As a result of his father's death, the Holder family had very little money and Horace had to work thereafter for everything he got. Even at the age of 10, after school hours, Horace worked for a grocery store, delivering groceries.

At the age of approximately 15, while riding with a friend who had picked him up when he was delivering papers on his paper route, he lost his right arm at the shoulder in an automobile accident. He later finished Byrd High School and was able to work himself through Centenary College and graduated from Centenary College with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Upon graduation from Centenary, Horace decided that he would try to obtain admission to the LSU Law School. In 1935, he hitch-hiked a ride to Baton Rouge and he badgered so many people for a job that they finally let him into the Law School and gave him a job in the Law Library, where he worked for the 3 years. As is so often the case, the one who had the most to do, did the best and Horace graduated as the Valedictorian of his class in 1938

and was duly admitted to the practice of law shortly thereafter. In the face of near insurmountable odds he had achieved a childhood dream by becoming a lawyer. His widow, Irene, put it better than we ever could - she said "Life handed him a lot of lemons and he made lemonade."

After being admitted to the Bar, Horace returned to Shreveport and entered into the practice of law with Walter Chandler and taught a law class at Centenary College at night. In 1942 he joined the Law Firm of Tucker, Bronson and Martin, which firm is now known as Tucker, Jeter, Jackson & Hickman. He was active in the practice of law with this firm until he suffered a stroke approximately three and one-half years before his death in December, 1989. Horace had a long and close relationship with the members of the law firm - he and Howard Bronson, now deceased, Skip Martin, now retired, Bob and Kay Jeter and T. Haller Jackson were not only partners, but close friends and comrades and socialized and worked together as such for over a period of 40 years.

When one thinks about Horace as a lawyer, the numerous qualities he possessed, which made him the consummate attorney, flood upon you. He loved the law and buried himself in it's practice. It was as normal for Horace to work on weekends as it is normal for the rest of us not to. He had a deep sense of personal integrity, a bright, keen, retentive and analytical mind and a fantastic memory. It may be truly said that those who crossed his way in the Court Room or who sat across from

him at the conference table, always found an attorney who fully, capably and completely represented his client in the best of the legal tradition.

Horace spent approximately 11 years of his professional career involved in a law suit styled Leiter Minerals versus California Company with Horace and other attorneys representing the Leiters. The case, filed in 1953, involved the ownership of a 9,000 acre developed oil field in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana and was probably one of the largest civil law suits tried, to that date, in this State. Ten years after the suit was filed, George W. Hardy, III, in a law review article, noted that the case has "become almost a career for the attorneys involved" and further noted that "to date it has labored its way through at least seven hearings in six different courts over a period of ten years." Another year later, following a favorable decision for Horace's client in the Fifth Circuit, the case was settled with the Leiters and their attorneys receiving a very, very substantial settlement.

Horace was inducted into the Louisiana State University Law School Hall of Fame and was also awarded the Order of the Coif by the Louisiana State University Law School, which is the highest scholastic award granted by the school.

As noted above, Horace lost his right arm at the shoulder at the age of 15. Horace's brother, Arch, was probably one of the best tennis players to come out of this area, and it was only natural that Horace would play the sport. Watching him serve a tennis ball, holding the racquet and the ball in the same hand and throwing the

ball up, was a feat that we marvel at to this day. This amazing feat in athletics carried over into every other aspect of his life - never did it appear that the quality of his life was, in any way, limited by the loss of the arm.

Horace had a keen sense of humor and loved to reminisce about the humorous things that happened in the past. One of his favorites was the following; Shortly after Horace started practicing law, he defended a man charged with running hot oil. He was able to get him off, but his client would not pay the \$7,500.00 fee which Horace charged, which was a lot of money in those days. Horace sued him in Federal Court for the \$7,500.00 fee and the case was tried before a Jury, with Judge Dawkins presiding. The case was defended by Sam Love. Sam's primary defense was that Horace had had no experience in criminal law (which, of course, he didn't) and an inexperienced lawyer should not receive such a large fee.

Horace put on the stand Ed Bailey, who was then the President of the Shreveport Bar Association, to testify as to the value of his services. He asked Mr. Bailey what he thought the services which he had rendered were worth and Mr. Bailey said, "\$15,000.00." Sam Love, on cross examination, said, "Mr. Bailey, you and I used to be law partners, did we not." Mr. Bailey, "yes sir, we sure did." Mr. Love; "we handled numerous criminal cases, didn't we." Mr. Bailey, "yes sir." Mr. Love; "did we ever have to sue any of our clients for our fees?" Mr. Bailey; "no, Mr. Love we did not. We were experienced criminal lawyers, we always got our fees in advance."

This statement cracked up the Judge, the Jury and the Court Room and the Jury awarded Horace the \$7,500.00 Judgment.

In June of 1949, Horace married Irene Hamner and they had 2 children, a lovely daughter, Leslie Ann, who lives in Shreveport, and is a nurse in an operating room at a local hospital, and a fine son, J Carl Holder, who is a CPA and lives in Dallas, Texas. Also surviving Horace are his 2 sisters, Elizabeth Cameron and Mary Katherine Agurs, who taught many of us Latin at Byrd High School, and a number of nieces and nephews.

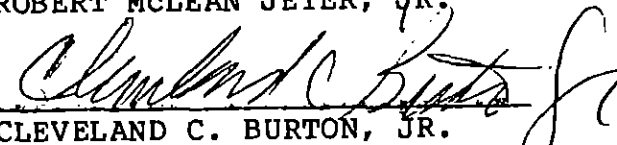
Horace was a kind and loving husband and father and a loyal friend, and fortunate, indeed, were those of us included in that group.

And now to his widow, Irene, his daughter, Leslie Ann, his son, Carl, his sisters, Mrs. Agurs and Mrs. Cameron, to his host of friends and to this Court, we the undersigned offer this brief Memorial to the memory of HORACE M. HOLDER and ask that it be inscribed in the Records of the First Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted on this 29th day of October, 1990.

  
HUGH M. STEPHENS, Chairman

  
ROBERT McLEAN JETER, JR.

  
CLEVELAND C. BURTON, JR.