

MEMORIAL FOR
JUDGE JAMES E. BOLIN
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES
HELD IN THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 29, 2001 UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

FILED

OCT 29 2002

Deanne Doughty
DEPUTY CLERK

The tenth of ten children, Judge James E. Bolin was born in Doyline, Webster Parish, Louisiana in 1915. He passed away March 25, 2002, at the age of 87. Upon graduation from LSU Law School in 1937 he began a highly distinguished legal career spanning some four decades. He practiced law in Springhill and Minden for a number of years. In 1940 at the young age of 25 he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. Soon after, his legal career was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served in the 30th and 39th Infantry Divisions. He participated in the Normandy campaign, the Battle of the Bulge, and the concluding war effort in Germany. He attained the rank of major and as a result of his combat duty, was decorated for bravery. In 1948, at 33, he was elected District Attorney for Bossier and Webster Parishes. He was elected District Judge for the 26th Judicial District at age 37 where he served from 1952 to 1960. He was elected to the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 1960 where he served until 1979, four years of which were served as Chief Judge. In 1975 he was chosen to serve, by special appointment, to the Louisiana Supreme Court for several months.

Throughout his life he was devoted to his church and community. He was a longtime Sunday school teacher and held numerous church leadership positions. He was also recognized with many awards for community and professional achievements.

Judge Bolin was a loving husband, father and grandfather and while he worked hard he always found time to love and nurture his family. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 64 years, Mary Martin Bolin; his four children: Beth Bolin Falk; James E. Bolin, Jr.; Judge Bruce M. Bolin; and, Becky Bolin Maupin; seven grandchildren and one sister, Ora Bolin Watson.

Judge Bolin will be remembered for his inspiring presence, his keen wit, his sensitive nature, and his devotion to his God, country, and family.

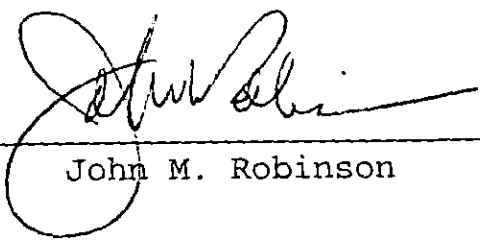
My family has enjoyed a long and fond association with the Bolin family. My father and mother opened a dry cleaning shop in Springhill at about the same time Judge Bolin opened his law practice there. Our families celebrated the fourths of July together on Dorcheat Bayou and enjoyed fish fries together where my mother recalls, "Jimmy loved fish and hush puppies, with lots of onions." Judge Bolin's son, Bruce, and I practiced law together for several years and now we enjoy sitting together as district court judges.

In 1974 and 1975 I had the honor of serving as a law clerk on the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal where I got to know Judge Bolin as a friend and mentor. I

learned the intricacies of legal research and got to practice drafting opinions. We discussed our civilian tradition as well as the rule of law. But I learned something far more important from Judge Bolin. That is the law has a practical side and judges' rulings affect real people in real ways. For that I will be forever grateful.

To his loving family, host of friends and colleagues on the bench, on behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, I submit this memorial to the memory of Judge James E. Bolin and move that it be inscribed in the records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that certified copies be presented to the family.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of October, 2002.



John M. Robinson