

FILED

SEP 18 1967

W. C. H. Smith
Deputy Clerk

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES EMORY SMITHERMAN

James Emory Smitherman, a distinguished member of the Bar for more than fifty years, passed away on May 17, 1967 at the age of eighty-five years. Mr. Smitherman was born at Liberty Hill, Louisiana in Bienville Parish, Louisiana on January 2, 1882 the son of Robert Grandison Smitherman and Rachael Roden Smitherman. He received his education in the elementary schools of his boyhood home, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at Ruston and his LL.B. degree at Louisiana State University. He was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1909.

He began his legal career in private practice in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1909, remaining there until 1914 when he re-located in Shreveport. In 1918 he became a partner in the firm of Thatcher and Smitherman and in 1920 became the senior partner in the firm of Smitherman, Tucker and Mason. In 1933 he became the senior partner in the firm of Smitherman and Smitherman, which at the time of his retirement from active practice of law in the early 1960's was known as Smitherman, Smitherman, Purcell & Lunn.

In addition to his law practice Mr. Smitherman was engaged extensively in the oil business and made substantial contributions to the economic development of the entire area in the discovery and

development of several large oil and gas properties in North Louisiana and South Arkansas, including the Haynesville Field in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. As a representative of the Oil and Gas Association of Louisiana he was instrumental in procuring the passage of conservation statutes protecting our natural resources and setting up a spacing pattern governing the development of the Haynesville Field.

Mr. Smitherman's interests and activities have covered a much wider scope than his law practice and oil activities, connecting him with the events that have shaped the material, social, political, religious and civic development of the City of Shreveport and State of Louisiana. His great interest and untiring efforts were largely responsible in bringing into reality the construction of the Downtown Shreveport Y.M.C.A. He was an active member of the Y.M.C.A. for more than forty years, a member of the State Executive Committee, the International Committee and General Board having supervision over the affairs of the Association through the Nation. He served as President of the local Y.M.C.A. for ten years and was President Emeritus at the time of his death. He served as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University for eighteen years and was Chairman for several terms, during which time he was active in the planning of the building of a fine new library at the University as well as many other needed structures on the campus.

Mr. Smitherman was a member of the First Baptist Church of Shreveport since 1914 and served as a member of the Board of Deacons for over forty years. He was also one of the organizers of the Dodd Foundation promoting the building of Dodd College and was Chairman of its building committee as well as a Director and Trustee. Although in failing health, he served as Chairman of the Building Committee of the new First Baptist Church of Shreveport at Highland and Ockley in the City of Shreveport.

Mr. Smitherman was active in the banking life of the community having served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Continental Savings Bank and Trust Company which later became the Continental-American Bank subsequently merging into the Commercial National Bank in Shreveport. He was a moving factor in the organization of the Louisiana Bank and Trust Company and served as Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors until his retirement in 1962.

In college he was a member of Kappa Sigma Social Fraternity, and an Honorary Member of the Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity. He was a Mason and Shriner, and a member of the Shreveport, Louisiana and American Bar Associations.

He served on the Red River Valley Improvement Association, and was instrumental in the building of the Denison Dam at Denison, Texas. He was State Chairman of the Finnish Relief Campaign in 1939-40 and was cited by Herbert Hoover for meritorious service.

He was a delegate from Louisiana to the National Democratic Convention in 1920 and 1924, and was appointed as a member of the PWA Advisory Board for Louisiana by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.


James Emory Smitherman married Ina Thompson Smitherman in 1910, and they were the parents of four sons, one of whom, Robert E. Smitherman, lost his life during World War II in the service of his Country. Mrs. Ina Thompson Smitherman died in 1946. Later Mr. Smitherman married Nellie Norton Smitherman who survives him. The three surviving sons are James E. Smitherman, Jr., and G. Scott Smitherman both of Shreveport, and Eugene A. Smitherman of Houston, Texas.

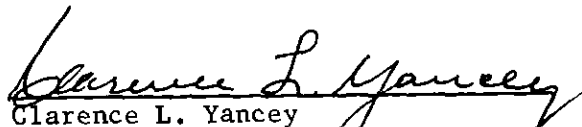
A listing of some of his accomplishments can not portray the kind and gentle spirit of this truly Christian Gentleman, nor adequately express the loss we have suffered. We are left with an empty sadness tempered by a feeling of gratefulness for the heritage he left us from his full, rich and rewarding life. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement with the full realization that the true memorial to James Emory Smitherman is his exemplary life, untiring devotion to family, community, state and nation, and the lasting effects of his life and accomplishments.

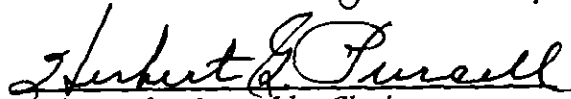
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That this memorial be presented and read at Memorial Exercises to be held in the Caddo Parish District Court under the auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association on September 18, 1967, and that it be presented to the Supreme Court of Louisiana at Memorial Exercises to be held under the auspices of the Louisiana State Bar Association on October 2, 1967.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this memorial be delivered to the members of the immediate family of James Emory Smitherman as a testimonial of the high esteem and regard held for him by the Shreveport and Louisiana State Bar Associations.

Respectfully submitted,


Clare C. Clark


Clarence L. Yancey


Herbert G. Purcell, Chairman

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE