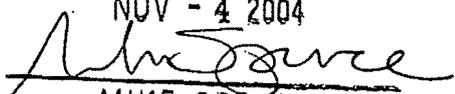


MEMORIAL FOR
JAMES ROBERT "JIM" DAWSON
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 4, 2004
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

FILED

NOV - 4 2004


MIKE SPENCE
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Fellow Judges, family members, friends and fellow members of the bar:

James Robert Dawson, known to some of you as Jim, but, to most of us as Jimmy, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on October 10, 1949, to J. R. and Bobbie Dawson. His untimely death came on March 3, 2004, at the age of 54. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. J. R. Dawson, three (3) daughters, Jenny Solanic, Emily Dunlap, and Mary Alice Dawson, two (2) granddaughters, Elliegh Dawson and Alyssa Solanic, one (1) brother, Ricky Dawson and two (2) sisters, Debbie Hatfield and Betsy Hubble.

Jimmy was a graduate of Woodlawn High School. While there he was a national merits scholar. Jimmy attended LSU on a full Army scholarship; and, after obtaining a degree in History from LSU in 1971, he stayed at LSU and obtained a law degree in 1974. After law school, Jimmy entered the U. S. Army and attended Army Intelligence School, JAG school and later served as a Judge Advocate at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In 1979, Jimmy returned to Shreveport and entered the practice of law with the firm of Johnston, Thornton, Dawson and Hunter. He remained in the private practice until 1994 when he went to work for the State Attorney General's office. While at the Attorney General's office, Jimmy became a mentor to many attorneys and was well respected and recognized for his dedication and hard work. Jimmy was an accomplished attorney and very proud of the fact that he represented our state before the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of "Guillen Vs. Pierce County".

Jimmy was raised in the Summer Grove Baptist Church but in 1980 he converted to the Jewish religion and became an active member of B'Nai Zion Temple where he served as a religious school teacher and a board member.

Jimmy may have chosen the law for his profession but one of his true love was sports, and, more particularly, Youth Sports. Jimmy was proud of the fact he graduated Woodlawn and he was

the epitome of Woodlawn in the 1960's. As a sophomore in 1964, Jimmy wasn't very big. I remember when he told me that he was going to go out for baseball, I was sitting there looking at this guy that was short, had on thick glasses and had a speech impediment. Overcoming adversity wasn't hard for Jimmy because he never thought or realized he was at a disadvantage. He was always positive, optimistic and up to any task. For that, everyone at Woodlawn knew and loved Jimmy Dawson. He overcame the stuttering, probably no one in this room but his family and I ever knew he stuttered. That year, not only did Jimmy go out for the baseball team, but, he made the team. You need to remember, back then there were no junior varsity teams, you either made varsity or got cut. I don't remember Jimmy playing much but I do remember he became a manager/trainer. That was back in the haydays of Woodlawn. But, to say Jimmy was a manager or trainer isn't sufficient because Jimmy was more, he was an intricate part of Woodlawn athletics. He became the scorekeeper, statistician and equipment manager for all sports. In baseball he was even the first base coach.

In high school, Jimmy had another love, and that was to write about sports. He truly loved sports but he also cared about and knew the individuals that played the game. His talent to write became very evident when he and Nico Van Thyn became the sports editors and writers for our weekly newspaper. I would venture to say that in the mid sixties we had the best sports section of any publication in North Louisiana. They had the ability to make the game come to life every week in their articles. This talent lasted as Nico went on to become a sports editor and Jimmy continued to write for the Shreveport Times until his death.

Jimmy's devotion to sports started in high school; and I'm sure anybody that ever spent much time with Jimmy heard more than one Terry Bradshaw or Joe Ferguson story. But this devotion was even more apparent in his later life when he started coaching girls AAU basketball. I remember when my son was in the second or third grade, I told Jimmy about this girl in his class. I told him that she was a good athlete and that she liked to play ball. A couple of weeks later I bumped into Jimmy and I told him that I had not had the opportunity to talk to her parents yet but I was going to. He said that I didn't need to, he had already called them and she was on his AAU basketball team. That girl went on to play for Southwood's state championship teams and is now pursuing a college

degree with the hopes of going on to law school. Coach Dawson touched the lives of many young ladies and his passion for the sport and life were always evident. Jim always gave of himself and no girl ever missed a weekend because "she" couldn't afford to go. Jimmy had a motto that he used when coaching: "Believe in yourself and do your best". A motto that he lived his life by. Did he effect his girls? I assume it did, because they had license plates made with only the letters "BIYDYD". If you and I saw the plate we wouldn't know what it meant but they did - for them it was an everyday reminder to believe in yourself and do your best.

As you can tell, Jimmy was a man of many talents. A man that loved many things, but, I would be remiss if I did not accent his true love - his family - not only was he devoted to his mother and siblings but he was a dedicated and loving father. He spent many hours with the Indian Princesses and was always there for his daughters. You or I may say that he sacrificed for his family, but, Jimmy would never have thought of it as a sacrifice

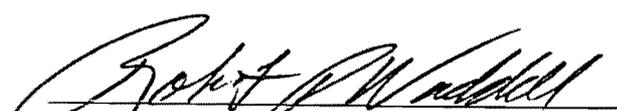
Jimmy was sincere in all aspects of his life. He didn't just handle a case, he didn't just coach, he didn't just cover a game and write a story. He became involved. This sincerity was best expressed in the Times in an article that appeared shortly after Jimmy's death. They were interviewing a local girls high school basketball coach and he made the statement: "What hurts about it is that I didn't just lose a sports writer - I lost a friend." Everyone who knew Jimmy felt just that way. I can still see that smile and that little twinkle in his eye.

He was a unique man, a true friend to all that knew him. He will be missed but surely not forgotten.

I am honored to submit this memorial to the memory of James Robert "Jimmy" Dawson and move that this memorial be duly recorded and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court and that copies thereof be delivered to Jimmy's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for recordation.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED ON this 4th day of November, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert P. Waddell, District Judge