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MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HONORING

JASPER K. SMITH, JR.

We have come today to pay our last respects to and to honor the memory of one of our most respected citizens and distinguished colleagues, who has left his stamp upon his native State of Louisiana and its people as few men are capable of doing.

Jasper K. Smith, Jr. was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on June 20, 1905 and was well on his way to matching the 101 year longevity of his mother when the ravages of cancer felled him in his 87th year. He died on May 18, 1992. Fondly known to his family and friends as "Jap", he was the sixth of eight children born to Julia Stewart Smith and Reverend Jasper Keith Smith, Sr., the longtime pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport. Jap attended the public schools of Shreveport and graduated from the old Shreveport High School on Hope Street. His memories of early Shreveport after the turn of the century were captured by Radio Station KRMD in a series of broadcasts in the 1960's.

Jasper later attended Davidson College, a Presbyterian School in North Carolina, with the intention of entering the ministry. However, he changed his plans and finished his under-graduate work at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he also obtained his law degree. He was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1930.

He practiced Law in Shreveport for several years during the depression, and when the Rodessa Oil Field opened up he moved to Vivian, Louisiana with his new Bride, Lavonya Pullen Smith. He practiced law in Vivian for more than 40 years and took an active part in community, social and church affairs. He and Lavonya were the proud parents of three children who were reared in a happy, christian environment in Vivian. In later life, Jasper was quick to boast of the accomplishments of his children, all of whom obtained advance degrees in higher education and were successful in their chosen careers.

There were three gracious women with whom Jaspers K. Smith Jr. was to share his life, the first two of whom he nurtured and cared for during the last illness of each and the third was to nurture, comfort and care for him during his last illness. Lavonya Pullen Smith died on May 24, 1970. He was later married to Mildred Fields Galbraith Smith, of Belcher, Louisiana, who died on July 29, 1987. He was last married to Jacqueline Tippet Smith, of Shreveport, whose destiny it was to nurture him in his last illness.

Jasper K. Smith, Jr. was survived by his wife, Jacqueline Tippet Smith; three children, Dr. Jasper K. Smith, III of Beaufort, South Carolina; John Pullen Smith of Gainsville, Texas and Suzanna Smith Thornton of New Iberia, Louisiana; one sister Julia Smith Bowen of Shreveport, one brother, Rev. R. McNair Smith of Shreveport, Louisiana; grandchildren, Dr. Scott Pullen Smith, Troy Stewart Smith, Dr. Blake Thomas Smith, Jeffrey Whitaken Smith, Heather Stuart Smith, Kyla Katherine Thornton and Tribbey Bryan Thornton, and four great-grandchildren.

Although Jasper practiced law as a profession and as a livelihood, it was in the field of politics that he left his greatest mark. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1944 and served during the reform administration of Sam Jones as Governor. He helped the Governor to enact his reforms. In 1948 Jasper ran for District Judge in Caddo Parish but was unfortunately caught up between two factions -- the Longs and anti-Longs and failed in his bid. However in 1952 he was again elected to the Legislature and served 12 more years in that position. It was in the reform administration of Governor Robert F. Kennon that Jasper was to etch his claim to immortality. Attempts had been made in previous years to pass legislation which would require more than a majority to pass tax increases in the Legislature. They had always failed. As a friend said of Jasper's efforts "He didn't know it could not be done so he did it".

In an editorial of the Times of Shreveport a few days following his death, entitled "SMITH'S LEGACY", the Times had this to say:

"Every Louisiana Taxpayer should bow in reverence to their departed champion: former State Rep. Jasper K.

Smith of Shreveport."

"The dapper lawyer-lawmaker who died of a brief illness Monday, gave state taxpayers their No. 1 means of protection; the so-called super majority on all tax increases proposed in the State Legislature."

"Thanks to Smith, two-thirds support from both houses of the legislature is required on any proposed tax increase. Smith wrestled the 1955 legislature into adopting his two-thirds tax amendment, which gained voter approval a year later. It has ruled over legislative fiscal matters ever since. As it should...."

"Lawmakers and Governors can attest to the amendment's power. It has blocked hundreds of millions of dollars - perhaps even more - in tax proposals that would have ballooned the budget. And it has brought about fiscal reforms that lock in certain tax revenues for certain purposes".

"Evidence of the Smith-sponsored amendment's influence is found in Baton Rouge still today...."

In his chosen profession of law, Jasper K. Smith, Jr. was held in high esteem by members of the bar and the bench. He was awarded the rating of "AV" from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest rating a lawyer can receive by this prestigious law list. These ratings are based largely on the opinions of other practicing attorneys and members of the bench who are conferred with by the publication. Jasper served as City Attorney for the Town of Vivian for more than 30 years and as a member of the Louisiana City Attorney's Association. He was elected President of that organization.

Jasper practiced law as a sole practitioner for most of the 62 years of his practice. He did have a partnership for a few years with Milton C. Trichel, James Malsch and John R. Ballard under the firm name of "Smith, Trichel, Malsch and Ballard". Jasper was the Vivian member of the firm. He was known to give aid and advice to younger lawyers. He also tutored students of law and successfully tutored John Ballard, Sr. to admission to the Bar.

Elected to the Constitutional Convention of the State of Louisiana held in 1973, he helped to rewrite our Constitution, making certain his "Two-thirds" rule was not changed. He served for many years as a member of the

elected Louisiana State Democratic Central Committee. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the El Karubah Shrine among other civic organizations.

When he moved to Vivian, Louisiana from Shreveport there was not a church of his faith, the Presbyterian Church, in Vivian. However, he attended the Methodist Church in Vivian and went about helping to organize a Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church was organized and active during the remainder of his stay in Vivian.

Aside from the accomplishments of Jasper K. Smith, Jr., he was a kind and gentle man with a quick wit. He loved life and lived it with gusto. He loved his family and was a devoted husband and father. At his death he was a member of the Fairfield Avenue Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, where his brother, R. McNair Smith, was the Pastor until his retirement. Jasper often substituted in the pulpit of that church in the absence of the pastor.

After retirement Jasper and his wife moved back to Shreveport where they established their home at 770 Thora Boulevard and where he lived out his life. In his homegoing, Jasper would have joined the Bard, who said:

Sunset, an evening star
and one clear call for me
And may there be no moaning
At the Bar
When I put out to sea.


For such a tide as, moving
seems asleep,
Too full for sound or foam
When that from out the
boundless deep
Turns Again home.

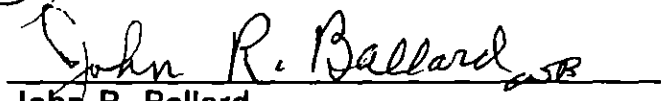
Twilight, an evening bell
And after that the dark
And may there be no sadness
of farewell
When I embark.

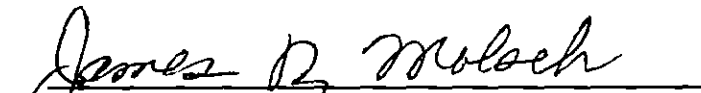
For though from out our
bourne of time and place,
The flood may hear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot
face to face
When I have crossed the Bar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shreveport Bar Association adopt and record this memorial as a Testimonial and Tribute to the memory of its departed member, Jasper K. Smith, Jr. and that it be entered upon the records of the First Judicial District Court and of this Association, that copies of the Resolution be delivered to his family members.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


Jackson B. Davis


John R. Ballard


James R. Malsch


Algie D. Brown, Chairman For
The Memorial Committee