

Memorial to

JOSEPH RANSELL BETHARD

May 22, 1909 - June 17, 1983

Presented to the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana for Caddo Parish by the undersigned Committee designated by the President of the Shreveport Bar Association to prepare and submit a resolution in memory of the late Joseph Ransdell Bethard, a member of the Court and a member of this Association.

FILED

OCT 31 1983

E. W. Shurtz
DEPUTY CLERK

.

Joseph Ransdell Bethard was born in Harrisonburg, Louisiana, on May 22, 1909, the sixth of eight children born of the marriage of Henry W. Bethard and Frances Elizabeth Martin. He departed this life June 17, 1983 survived by his wife, Natalie Carter Bethard; two daughters, Rebecca Jo Bethard of Dallas, Texas, and Frances Bethard McNelis; two granddaughters, Natalie Marie McNelis and Kathleen McNelis, of Shreveport, Louisiana; and four sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

He received his early schooling in Harrisonburg, Louisiana, and entered Louisiana State University in the Fall of 1927. He was awarded the Bachelor of Arts Degree by Louisiana State University in the Spring of 1931. While an undergraduate, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Social Fraternity and was a member of the Varsity Boxing Team. At the homecoming ceremonies in the Fall of 1980 he was recognized as a Fifty Year Member of the LSU Varsity Club.

During the depression years, Joe worked at various jobs including bridge building. In the Fall of 1938 he entered Louisiana State University Law School. At the end of three years, he lacked three hours credit needed for graduation and the money to continue. He passed the Louisiana Bar examination and was admitted to the practice of law by the Supreme Court in the year 1941. He opened his office in his home town of Harrisonburg where he practiced until drafted into the army in the year 1942. While engaged in the practice of law in his home town he was elected Mayor.

When questioned about his accomplishments during his tenure in office, he gave a typical Joe Bethard reply: "I built the road down to Momma's house."

He was discharged from the army in 1946 with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was a member of the Officers Reserve Corp until 1953. Upon his discharge from the army, he came to Shreveport and opened an office for the practice of law. He maintained his office until his death, although during the last several months of his life he was unable to go to it.

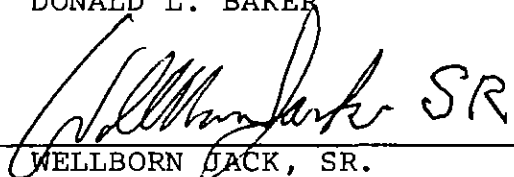
He married Natalie Carter in 1947. She was his constant companion and favorite fishing partner during the remainder of his life. His favorite pastime was spending time at his camp on Toledo Bend with his family.

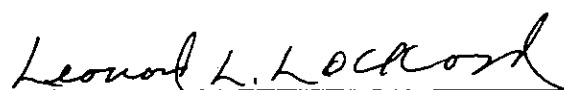
Joe is remembered by his many friends and associates for his ready smile and good-natured witticisms. But most of all he is remembered by his fellow lawyers as a worthy adversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, hereby affirm the respect, the admiration, and the regard in which we hold Joseph Ransdell Bethard for his character and ability, his industry, skill, and learning, and his example as a lawyer; and we extend to his widow, daughters, granddaughters, and sisters, our sincere sympathy for their loss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial and resolution be made a part of the records of this Court and that copies of the record hereof be delivered to the members of the family of our departed brother and friend.


DONALD L. BAKER


WELLBORN JACK, SR.


LEONARD L. LOCKARD

Shreveport, Louisiana

October 31, 1983