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LAWRENCE CRAIN BLANCHARD

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Lawrence (Lal) Crain Blanchard was born in Rapides Parish on March 23, 1886.

He was the son of H. C. Blanchard and Eva Jones Blanchard. His father was a brother of the late Governor Newton C. Blanchard.

Mr. Blanchard received his early education in the schools at Boyce. Subsequently, he was a student at the Louisiana Industrial Institute at Ruston and later attended Tulane University Law School from which he was graduated in the year 1906. Upon reaching the age of twenty-one, he was admitted to the Bar and began the practice of law at Shreveport, where he had established his home.

In 1910, he was appointed Judge of the Shreveport City Court by Governor Jared Y. Sanders and filled the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge S. C. Fullilove. At that time, Mr. Blanchard was only twenty-four years old and had the distinction of being the youngest person to ever hold a judgeship in Louisiana.

Mr. Blanchard was re-elected to the office of City Judge in 1912.

In 1916, he was elected District Attorney of the First Judicial District and served as District Attorney until December, 1930.

After four years spent in the practice of law, Mr. Blanchard was elected Commissioner of Public Safety of the City of Shreveport in 1934. After serving one term as Commissioner of Public Safety, Mr. Blanchard again returned to the practice of law in 1938.

In 1907, Mr. Blanchard married Puella Holbert, daughter of Judge Joel W. Holbert and Maude Hilly Holbert of Homer, Claiborne Parish. To this union four children were born, as follows: Marion, the wife of James Echterhoff of Shreveport, Louisiana; Clara, the wife of Bryant Williams of San Angelo, Texas; Maude, the wife of E. Wallace Graves of Bossier Parish, and Lawrence C. Blanchard, who was killed during the Normandy Invasion in July, 1945, while serving as an officer in the United States Army.

Mr. Blanchard was a life long Democrat, and for thirty years was a political factor in Caddo Parish. His popularity was due, in no small measure, to his warm personality and his loyalty to his friends.

As a judge and public prosecutor, his official acts and conduct exemplified kindness, understanding and consideration for the rights of the individual.

Mr. Blanchard died at Shreveport, Louisiana, on February 12, 1946.

Aubrey M. Pyburn
Albert P. Garland
Charles S. Mayer
Shreveport Bar Association
Memorial Committee