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*E. W. Gentry*  
Deputy Clerk

Memorial to  
MARION KING SMITH

May 11, 1895 - September 26, 1971

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Presented to the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana in and 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 Marion King Smith, of Shreveport, a member of the Bar of this Court and of this Association

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Marion King Smith was born in Augusta, Georgia on May 11, 1895, the son of Dr. Jasper Keith Smith and his wife, Julia Stewart. He died on September 26, 1971 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

His father was a Presbyterian Minister of great ability and moved to Shreveport in 1904, when Marion was nine years old, to be Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport where he served until his death. His mother, Mrs. Julia Stewart Smith, survives Marion and still lives in Shreveport. She was one hundred years old in April of this year.

Marion spent most of his childhood in Shreveport and attended Centenary College. In his Last Will and Testament, he remembered Centenary College. Knowing that Centenary College did not have a law library, he bequeathed his extensive and valuable law library to Centenary College.

He studied law at and graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1917.

He volunteered for duty and served in World War I, and again in World War II, interrupting his legal practice to do so. In World War I he served at the front in France in General Pershing's Ambulance Corps in 1917 and 1918 and was awarded the

Silver Star Citation for conspicuous gallantry in action. Fortunately, some of his letters written to his mother in 1917 and 1918 have been preserved and they reveal a young man dedicated to his country, brave, patriotic and with a strong faith and trust in God. In World War II he was commissioned as a Captain and served for three and one-half years in the Judge Advocate General's Department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He engaged in the practice of law in Shreveport for a period of fifty-two years, interrupted only by his military service. He was a lawyer of great talent, both in the office and in Court, and handled cases in all levels of the Courts, both state and federal. He was known as a determined advocate who represented his clients diligently and zealously. Over the years, he was a partner in several law firms, including Foster, Looney, Wilkinson and Smith; Foster, Hall and Smith; and Smith, Hunter, Risinger and Shuey, and participated in the handling of many difficult and important cases, and he was known as a great student of the law. For the last few years of his life, Marion enjoyed practicing as a sole practitioner, remained active and was handling complex cases in the State and Federal Courts, as well as carrying on an active office practice when he died at age seventy-six.

Marion was a life long member of the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, serving as a Ruling Elder and Trustee, and as Chairman of those bodies. He was extremely active in church work and will be remembered as a dedicated church man.

He was also active in Bar Association work and all phases of civic affairs. To list only a few of his many services, it

is noted that he served as President of the Shreveport Bar Association, and was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, serving on its Board of Governors in 1942, served as Chairman of the Caddo Draft Board, Commander of the Lowe-McFarland American Legion Post, was an active member of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge and the Forty and Eight Club, and served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1922 to 1926, and on the Caddo Parish School Board, resigning in 1942 to enter the service.

Marion had a unique personality and a strong character. He was a friendly person who cherished the companionship of others. There was no pretense in his modesty. In fact, there was no sham or pretense in him and he particularly disliked these qualities in others. He possessed an outstanding sense of humor, which was without barbs, subtle and delightfully human.

Marion was married to Gladys Backenstoe of Emmaus, Pennsylvania for 34 years. She died on August 6, 1962, and thereafter he married Mrs. Melba K. Venable, who survives him.

He is also survived by his mother; five brothers, J. Stewart Smith, Walter F. Smith, Reverend McNair Smith, Ralph Smith, and Jasper K. Smith, Jr., and by two sisters, Mrs. John W. Ellis and Mrs. Julia Bowen.

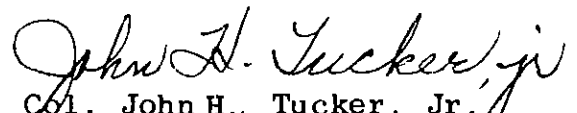
Those of us who survive him and who had the privilege of his companionship, knew the resources of his mind and heart and his capacity and unfailing willingness to expand them to the furthest boundaries in aid of others. We all take solace in the fact his life has been and will be an inspiration to us.

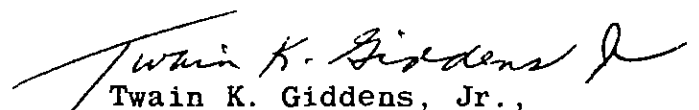
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, hereby affirm the respect, the admiration and the regard in which we held Marion King Smith, for his character and ability, his industry, skill and learning, and for his example of the lawyer at his best; and we extend to his widow, his mother, and the other members of his family our sincere sympathy in their loss.

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.

  
Judge Edwin F. Hunter, Jr.

  
Judge Pike Hall, Jr.

  
Col. John H. Tucker, Jr.

  
Twain K. Giddens, Jr.,  
Chairman

Shreveport, Louisiana

1 September, 1972