

IN MEMORIAM

PHILIP HENRY MECOM

FILED

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Edw. Gentry

Philip Henry Mecom was born on May 13, 1889 in Arcadia, Louisiana, youngest of the eleven children of William and Carolyn Mecom. Both of his parents died when he was thirteen and he was reared by two of his older brothers. He received his education in the public schools of North Louisiana and his legal training at the LSU and Tulane Law Schools, being admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1919. He entered practice with the late Huey Long, but left this association to become Assistant United States Attorney in 1921 and shortly afterwards became United States District Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, which post he held for a record fourteen years. He engaged in the private practice of law from 1936 through 1940 when he became Clerk of the United States District Court. He retained that position until his retirement in 1951. He returned to private practice with the firm of Mecom, Scott and Despot and continued his association with that firm until his death.

"Pat", as he was known to his friends, had a great interest in National Politics. He was a member of the Republican Party and was high in Republican councils long before the Party became as well established in Louisiana as it is today. He was a delegate to numerous Republican National Conventions from 1924 through 1952 when he was leader of the "Regular" delegation, pledged to his long time friend and confidant, Robert Taft. The unseating of that delegation at the National Convention by another group was a major factor in his decision to retire from political life, even though he stayed active long enough to help "Ike" become president.

He was a member of St. Marks Episcopal Church and remained active there until his death.

Mr. Mecom was a firm believer in the future of American Industry, even during the hectic days of the Great Depression and he was much respected by his friends and associates as a keen stock market analyst. No day was complete until he had visited "the Market", following which he would usually walk. He was a great "walker", an activity he took up actively following a heart attack in 1949. In addition to being good for his health, he used to say that walking gave him time to think without being interrupted.

Above everything else, "Mr. Pat" was a kind and considerate Christian Gentleman, devoted to his family and friends. In his later years he was not as active in the legal profession as he had been and he loved to visit with those he liked, but these visits were always too short because he refused to linger or allow a visit to become lengthy. In the many years that we knew him intimately there were many incidents which occurred that firmly convinced us he was one of the truly great men of the community. More often than not he refused to take any credit for the good things he did. His life was a true exemplification of these famous words:

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scorched to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

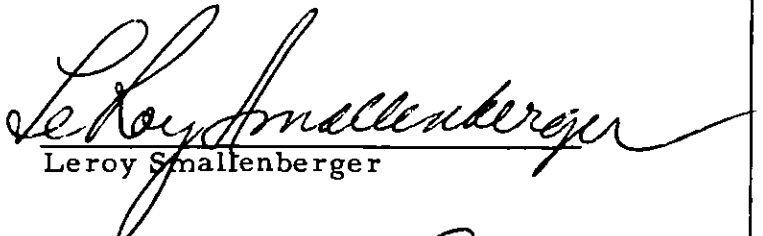
He is survived by his wife, the former Minnie Sherman, his son, Philip H. Mecom, Jr., three grandchildren and many friends who grieve at his passing. We bid you farewell, dear friend, until next we meet in Paradise.

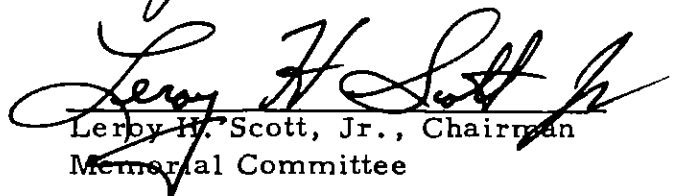
Your Honors, this Committee suggests to the Court and Bar the following Resolutions and moves their adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that in the death of Philip Henry Mecom we have lost an able and respected fellow attorney, the State an eminent and loyal citizen, his friends and acquaintances a gracious and charming person, and his widow and family a gentle, considerate and devoted husband and father.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this testimonial be sent to the State Bar Association and to the members of the family of Mr. Mecom and that the original thereof be recorded in the minutes of this session of court to always stand as a memorial to one who exemplified the highest ideals of the legal profession.

Respectfully submitted,


Leroy Smallenberger


Leroy H. Scott, Jr., Chairman
Memorial Committee