

EULOGY ON SIDNEY MEADOR COOK

MEMORIAL EXERCISES

SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION
September 17, 1962

FILED

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[Signature]
Deputy Clerk

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Mr. President, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been given the honor of saying these few words in memory of Sidney Meador Cook. He was born at Natchitoches, Louisiana, on November 11, 1888, attended the public schools of Natchitoches Parish, and was graduated from the Louisiana State Normal School in 1907. For six years he followed the teaching profession at Morgan City, Grand Cane, Mansfield, Franklin and Baton Rouge, teaching at the Normal School during the summers. During the school year of 1911-1912, he served as superintendent of the city schools of Baton Rouge. He enrolled in the Law School of the University of Michigan and received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from that university in 1914. His status as a scholar was such that he was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif.

He was admitted to the practice of law in the states of Michigan and Louisiana in 1914 and spent his entire career as a legal practitioner in the City of Shreveport. In 1916 he and the late Judge E. P. Mills formed the partnership of Mills & Cook, which lasted until the beginning of World War I when Sidney M. Cook enlisted in the United States Army. He saw service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France during that conflict, and by the time he was discharged from the army in 1919, he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant. That year he and his brother, Frank M. Cook, organized the firm of Cook & Cook. The firm became known as Cook, Cook & Egan in 1935, and in 1942, following the death of Frank M. Cook in 1940, Sidney

M. Cook, Elmo P. Lee, Clare C. Clark, Charles D. Egan, and Elmo P. Lee, Jr. began the practice as the firm of Cook, Lee, Clark & Egan, which was predecessor to the present firm of Cook, Clark, Egan, Yancey & King.

He was a member of the Shreveport, Louisiana State and American Bar Associations and was twice President of the Shreveport Bar Association, first elected in 1919 and again in 1933. He was a member of the Legal Committee to assist the Charter Commission of the City of Shreveport in 1949 and was one of the advisors to the Louisiana State Law Institute on the revision of the Code of Civil Procedure of Louisiana. For years he was active in the Shreveport Kiwanis Club and held several offices in that club, including the presidency. He was active in Community Chest work in his younger years and served a term as head of that organization.

As a youth, he achieved distinction as an athlete. He played the position of shortstop in baseball, was Captain of the first football team at the Normal School, and participated in tennis and golf. He enjoyed traveling and visited all sections of the United States and many parts of Canada by summer automobile travel. Through the years he spent leisure hours at his farm near the city where he had much pleasure in growing unusual fruits, berries and vegetables.

Although a person of rather wide interests, he had a devotion for the law which is seldom achieved. In the working hours this was always his first interest, and I feel sure that most people who were acquainted with

Sidney M. Cook will agree with the statement that as a legal practitioner, his work was done with zealousness, thoroughness and ingenuity. His briefs were all core, and his demeanor and argument in court were thought provoking if not impelling. As a colleague he could be depended upon for a laboring oar; with him as an adversary, there was no time for relaxing. Refreshing qualities of Sidney M. Cook were his faith in the logic of the law and his great respect for the Courts. He achieved excellence not only as an advocate but as an office lawyer. He had the unusual faculty of being a good businessman as well. He and his brother, Frank M. Cook, organized the Bayou State Oil Corporation, and for many years he participated in the management of this successful business enterprise. For an extended period he was Chairman of the Board and a major stockholder in the Shreveport Packing Company. He served as a director for various other business corporations.

He was a person of great efficiency, industry and impeccable personal traits. He was married on November 2, 1916, to Miss Katherine Chamberlin of West Baton Rouge Parish, and his married life of 48 years was one of great happiness and devotion.

Mr. Cook suffered a paralytic stroke in October, 1958, from which he never recovered, and passed from this life on August 7, 1962. He is survived by Mrs. Cook, by a sister, Miss Essie Elizabeth Cook, and by several nieces and nephews, including Sidney E. Cook and Frank M. Cook, partners in his law firm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Clarence L. Yancey
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