

**FILED**

SEP. 17 1962

*[Signature]*  
Deputy Clerk

MEMORIAL PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY  
THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION IN MEMORY OF  
THOMAS OVERTON BROOKS, A MEMBER OF THE  
LOUISIANA AND SHREVEPORT BAR  
ASSOCIATIONS

---

On this annual occasion when we of the Bench and Bar of Louisiana pay tribute to our departed brethren, it is indeed proper that we pay special tribute to one whose outstanding service in the Congress of the United States has exemplified the high standards of our profession.

Thomas Overton Brooks was born in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, on December 21, 1897. He attended the public schools of that Parish and was graduated from Louisiana State University. His formal education was interrupted by the first World War. When our country entered that war, he volunteered and saw combat duty with the First Division in France and Belgium. Following the Armistice his unit served with the occupation forces in Germany.

After his Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces at the war's end, he returned to L.S.U. He first earned a B. A. degree on June 12, 1922, and thereafter, on June 11, 1923, graduated with honors from the Law School. Upon admission to the Louisiana Bar in that year, Overton Brooks moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, and began the practice of law. His ability, diligence and devotion to the interest of his clients brought him early success in his chosen profession. During his years of active practice he served as United States Commissioner for a period of ten years.

Mr. Brooks gave freely of his time and talents to those things which contributed to the betterment of Shreveport, his adopted home. He was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the

Masonic Fraternity, and various veterans' organizations, serving as Commander of Lowe-McFarland Post of the American Legion.

His qualities of leadership, energy and devotion to duty were soon recognized. In 1936 he was elected to serve his first term in Congress as representative of the Fourth Congressional District.

The confidence expressed by the people of that district in the young lawyer from Baton Rouge was not misplaced, but was well-founded and of a most lasting nature. For the next twelve congressional elections, whenever opposed by Democrats in the primary or a Republican in the general election, he was returned to Congress by overwhelming majorities. It was in this legislative service that our departed brother brought great credit to his profession, benefit to his District, State and Nation, and honor to his good name. The record of Overton Brooks in the Congress of the United States constitutes a memorial far greater than anything we can say.

While there he was especially interested in Federal flood control and rivers and harbors projects, so vital to his native State. For many years he was a member of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress and served as its president for five years. At the time of his death, he was Chairman of its Board. He also served on many important committees during his twenty-five consecutive years of service, including an extended term as ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. It was from this position that he was chosen to become the first Chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics in 1959, becoming the first Congressman from Louisiana to head a major committee in over 50 years. He was reappointed to this chairmanship in 1961. In this capacity his leadership and service were outstanding and, properly, most recognized.

Recently, a private industrial organization honored him as "Space Congressman of the year."

The Congressional Record of September 16, 1961, contains ten pages of tributes to the character and record of Overton Brooks. In the tributes paid by his colleagues we find him described as "a dedicated public servant," "a kind, unassuming and deeply religious man", "a good man, a man of principle", "one of the most unselfish and patriotic men I have known", "Overton Brooks was a United States Representative, always bearing in mind his nation's interest", "a patriot of unexcelled quality", "industrious beyond belief", "modest and humble of spirit."

President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower, each of whom claimed him as a personal friend, also paid tribute to his character and service to his country.

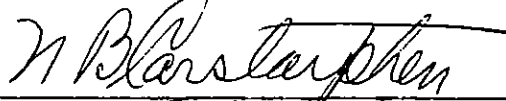
We of the Louisiana Bar are justly proud of the record of Overton Brooks who, over the last quarter of a century, so firmly imprinted his character on the minds and hearts of those with whom and for whom he served. All of us must take great pride in such recognition and acclaim given our departed brother. All of us cannot but be inspired by his enviable record and profoundly moved by his unswerving allegiance to the highest ideals of honor, integrity and patriotism.

On the morning of September 16, 1961, Thomas Overton Brooks, Dean of the Louisiana delegation to Congress, a true public servant, dedicated to the people of his native State of Louisiana and to his nation, passed to his eternal reward.

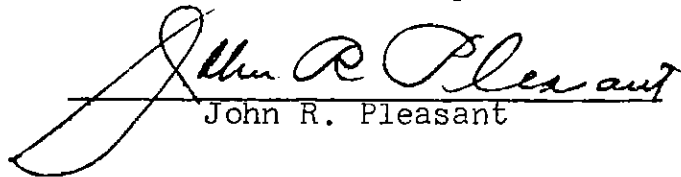
Congressman Brooks is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mollie Meriwether Brooks and one daughter, Miss Laure Anne Brooks of Shreveport. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Pennie O. Brooks, a brother,

Lawrance W. Brooks, a distinguished member of the Louisiana Bar, and four sisters, Mrs. Egeria Barnett, Miss Marion Brooks, Miss Claude M. Brooks and Mrs. Doris Kroenke, all of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. To his survivors the members of the Bench and Bar of Louisiana take this means of expressing our profound sympathy.

For The Shreveport Bar Association



N. B. Carstarphen



John R. Pleasant