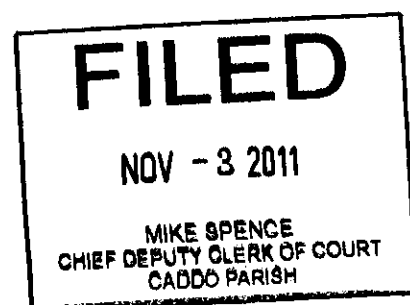


**MEMORIAL FOR
VAN BERNARD MATHEWS
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD AT THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 3, 2011**

I met Van Mathews in August 1984 on our first day as first year students – IL's— at Tulane Law School. Van was introduced to me by Charles Tate, the son of the late Justice Albert Tate. Van and Charles had been friends at LSU. I was fortunate to know Van Mathews, a wonderful, intelligent and honorable friend, with a peaceful presence and contagious smile, clever wit, and cut to the chase common sense. Van was a dedicated family man.

Van Mathews was born on October 12, 1962 in Jeanerette, Louisiana and passed away on August 31, 2011. Van graduated from Franklin Senior High School in 1980. Van attended LSU wherein he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1984. Van graduated from Tulane Law School in 1987. After law school, Van worked for a small, respected defense firm –Duplass, Witman & Zwain – in the New Orleans area. Van became staff counsel with the F.D.I.C., first in Baton Rouge, then in Atlanta, Georgia. In the early 1990's, Van received an offer from a fellow Tulane law grad, Ike Spears, to open the Shreveport office of Spears and Spears, a New Orleans law firm, where Van practiced until 1996. In 1996, Van went to work for the United States Social Security Office, wherein he rose to the rank of attorney supervisor. At the time of Van's death, he was on the path to becoming an administrative law judge with the Social Security Office. Van made a high score on the required test given to applicants and had been to Washington, D.C. for his final interview to be an administrative law judge.

Soon after moving to Shreveport, Van joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Van enjoyed and was active in his fraternity. Van served as an officer in the fraternity.



Van was president of his Homeowners' Association. Van showed compassion toward his neighbors, and, at the same time, he took seriously his responsibilities in protecting and maintaining his neighborhood.

Van was also a cantor at his church, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church. Van had a beautiful voice. Not only did Van regularly sing at church services, but he also sang at weddings and funerals. Van sang at the funeral of Richard King, who we are also memorializing today. A Memorial for Van in the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church bulletin provided:

We all knew his soulful voice. Not only has his death left a hole in the heart of our Music Ministry, but a great loss for our entire Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton family. (We) have received many words of appreciation for such a wonderful man.

Furthermore, Van had a passion for art. Van collected fine African art- both paintings and sculpture. His home was adorned with many pieces of African art.

Van adopted two (2) sons from the State of Louisiana: Ronnie Mathews (now 23 years old) and Jacques P. (or J.P.) Mathews (now 18 years old). Van provided a warm, loving, and structured home to his sons. Van gave his sons the education and moral upbringing to help them succeed in life. Van's character and integrity should continue to serve as their inspirations.

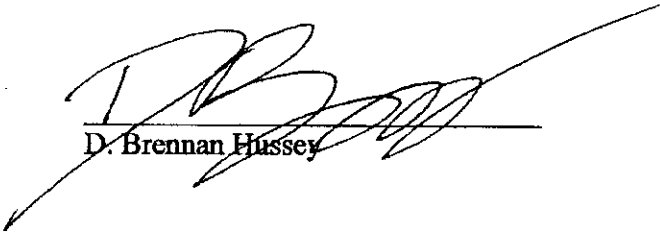
Additionally, Van cherished his close Jeanerette family. I spoke with Van three (3) days before he died and he was very excited that he was to travel to Jeanerette the next week to visit his relatives over the Labor Day weekend.

Van was preceded in death by his parents, Peterson Mathews and Elizabeth Mathews. Van is survived by his sons, Ronnie and J.P., brothers, Peterson Mathews, Jr., and O'Neal Mathews, sisters, Sherry Mathews-Hines and Delores "Betty" Mathews, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, Godchildren, friends and colleagues.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, we submit this Memorial to the memory of Van B. Mathews and move that it be inscribed in the permanent

records of the First Judicial District Court, Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana,
and that the appropriate copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 3rd day of November 2011, in Shreveport,
Caddo Parish, Louisiana.



D. Brennan Hussey