

**FILED**

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA  
OCTOBER 28, 1991

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*Antonio M. Miller*  
DEPUTY CLERK

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR WELLBORN JACK**

Wellborn Jack was proud to be a lawyer and a lawmaker. He loved being a lawyer, holding public office, and serving the people of Caddo Parish. He practiced law in Shreveport for 59 years—from 1932, the year he took the oath, to 1991, the year of his death. He served in the Louisiana Legislature as a State Representative for 24 years, from 1940 to 1964. He served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention that wrote the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. He served on the Caddo Parish Police Jury for 10 years, from 1974 to 1984 when it was replaced by the Parish Commission. He served as a member of the board of directors and finance committee of the Caddo Community Action Agency. He served on the Louisiana Law Institute from his days in the Legislature until his death. In a word: he served.

Wellborn Jack's heroes were lawyers, lawmakers, and lawmen. His father and grandfather before him were lawyers. His grandfather, Colonel William Houston Jack, practiced law in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and served in the Legislature. His father, George Whitfield Jack, practiced first in Natchitoches, then in Shreveport, and then was appointed United States District Judge by President Woodrow Wilson. His wife's uncle, Tom Hughes, was Sheriff in Caddo Parish for many years in the 20's and 30's. His older brother, Whitfield, became a lawyer the same year he did, 1932. His son, Wellborn, Jr., following the example of his father and uncle, also became a lawyer many years later, in 1963. He had a deep and personal affection for the law, not just as an abstract thing to be found and studied in books, but as a living force in his family and his life.

Wellborn Jack was born November 26, 1907, in Shreveport. He died 83 years later, May 31, 1991, in Shreveport. At the time of his death, he resided with his wife Elizabeth "Sue" DeWitt at their home at 2300 Fairfield, four blocks from the place of his birth. He was born and grew up in his family's home at 2760 Fairfield. Across Fairfield from his family's home was the winter grounds for the Mighty Haig Circus (adjacent to where St. Mark's

Episcopal Church now is), and he never tired of telling what it was like as a child to be awakened by the roar of lions and the trumpeting of elephants. His mother was Emily Roberta Pegues from Mansfield. He had one sister, Elizabeth, and three brothers, Hampton Carver, Whitfield, and Stuart. All have preceded him in death.

He attended Line Avenue Elementary School, Barrett Elementary, and graduated from Shreveport High School the year before C.E. Byrd High School opened. Except for the time he was away in school, he lived his whole life in Shreveport. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Southern California. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Centenary College in Shreveport and his Bachelor of Law from Tulane.

Wellborn Jack and his brother, Whitfield, were admitted to practice in 1932. That year they opened their law office together in Shreveport under the firm name of Jack and Jack. They lived next door to each other on Barrett Street, directly behind the house they had grown up in on Fairfield. In the worst years of the Great Depression of the 1930's, they quickly established themselves as leading members of the civil and criminal trial bar. Wellborn married Elizabeth "Sue" DeWitt on Valentines day in 1935, and the following year the first of their three children was born. His practice with his brother dissolved in the late 30's when he chose to pursue a political career and his brother went on active duty in the United States army in anticipation of the outbreak of the Second World War. Wellborn had high blood pressure and was unable to serve in that war, despite repeated attempts to get himself accepted.

Wellborn Jack was first elected to public office, the House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature, in 1940 as part of the anti-Long reform movement led by Sam Jones, who was elected Governor that year. Thereafter, he served continuously in the Legislature for twenty-four years. He served under Governor's Sam Jones, Earl Long, Jimmy Davis, and Bob Kennon. In the Legislature, he played a major role in shaping the Criminal Code, passing pioneer legislation providing for civil discovery, and in securing the adoption of the Code of Civil Procedure. In 1964 he was involuntarily retired from the Legislature when he was defeated by just 65 votes by, Bennett Johnson, Jr., who was later to become Senator. He

continued to shape the making of the law by serving continuously on the Louisiana law Institute until his death.

In the 40's, 50's and early 60's, Wellborn Jack divided his attention between the practice of law in the courts of Northwest Louisiana and its making in the Legislature in Baton Rouge. During most of that time, he practiced as a sole practitioner. Part of that time he practiced with Jack Gold, then with John Lawhon, and then with Joe Hebert. From 1963 until his death, he practiced in continuous association with his son, Wellborn Jack, Jr.

His practice of trial law was guided by a set of deeply felt principles that he shared generously with any young lawyer willing to watch and listen. He aspired to the highest ethical standards of his profession and knew from his own experience that a lawyer's life was terribly hard. He felt strongly that all judges and all lawyers in good standing with the bar were entitled to respect from their brothers and sisters in the law. He believed that lawyers could and should be vigorous advocates for their clients without becoming vicious adversaries. He believed in common sense in the courtroom and trusted judges and juries. He believed in people. He felt that there was no point worth making that could not best be illustrated with a story. He was a marvelous story teller. He believed in never telling any story that was not true or so good that it should be true.

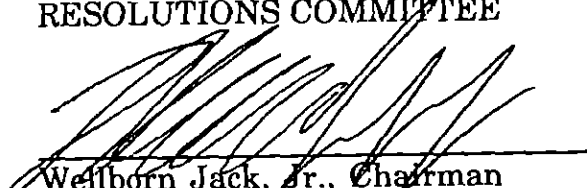
He is survived by his wife Elizabeth "Sue" DeWitt Jack, son Wellborn Jack, Jr., and his wife, Frances Tutu Baker Jack, two daughters, Elizabeth Jack Walker and Patricia Jack Morgan and her husband Bruce Henley Morgan, and grandchildren Wellborn Jack, III, Patrick Morgan Jack, Martha Morgan and Mary Morgan.

Wellborn Jack's 83 years of life meant many different things to the many of us who shared life with him. He was all of those things and proud of each of them. He was a lawyer, a legislator, a police juror, a husband, a father, and a grandfather. Above all, he was a friend to each of us who was willing to pause, share his company, and pass the time of day with him. In everything that he did and was, he strove above all to do what was right as God gave him the light to see it and the means to do it.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Shreveport Bar Association, the 28th day of October, 1991 that this Memorial be inscribed on the records

of the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana and of this Association and that copies be delivered to his widow and family.

SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE



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Wellborn Jack, Jr., Chairman



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Donald E. Baker



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