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OCT 29 1979

W. C. [Signature]
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MEMORIAL TO

JUDGE WILLIAM J. FLENIKEN

September 8, 1908 - May 5, 1979

Presented to the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana in and for Caddo Parish by the undersigned Committee designated by the President of the Shreveport Bar Association to prepare and submit a resolution in memory of the late Honorable William J. Fleniken, Chief Judge of this Court, a former member of this Bar and a lifelong member of our Association.

Distinguished members of the Judiciary here present, Katie Fleniken, the families and friends of the deceased members of the Bar who are being memorialized today, ladies and gentlemen.

One finds it difficult to express in words one's feelings at a time like this, a time at which a dear friend is being memorialized.

Judge Fleniken was born on September 8th, 1908 in Benson, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana. He passed away in Shreveport on the 5th day of May, 1979, survived by his wife, Kathryn Connerton Fleniken, and one son, William J. Fleniken, Jr. who, like his father, is a lawyer. He is engaged in the practice of law in Fort Worth, Texas.

Judge Fleniken's educational pursuits occurred in Shreveport. He was a graduate of Byrd High School and then attended Centenary College where he was trained in the law and was then admitted to the Louisiana Bar on March 13th, 1936. For all of his life the law was his great and abiding interest.

His first accomplishments at the Bar occurred while he was a corporate lawyer employed in the Legal Department of the Kansas City Southern Railway, this covered a nine year span from 1936 through 1943. He was engaged in the private practice of law in Shreveport for two years thereafter until he was selected to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney, a position he held from 1947 through 1949. He was singularly honored by the President of the United States and as such was appointed United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, a position he held with distinction through 1953. Thereafter he returned to his first love, the practice of law, with Algie D. Brown where he remained until 1961. As a result of the prestige earned at the Bar, Judge Fleniken was elected District Judge, Division "A" of this the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana on December 15th, 1961, where he served with distinction until immediately prior to his untimely death. His approach to adjudication was soundly rooted in a strong philosophical underpinning.

He was active in matters relating to the judiciary. He graduated from the National College of State Trial Judges in Denver, Colorado in 1964. He continued to be active in the National College as well as the National Conference of State Trial Judges where he served on the Executive Committee and additionally as Chairman of the Nominating Committee of 1974. In addition to his efforts for the judiciary, Judge Fleniken continued to be supportive of the Bar. He was an active participating member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Shreveport Bar Association.

He was a deeply religious person. Aside from believing devotedly in the power and efficiency of prayer, he supported the various institutions that engendered his faith. As such he was an active Church participant and practitioner. He served for many years on the Board of Deacons for the First Baptist Church.

His civic efforts were likewise laudatory, he served on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Caddo Foundation for Exceptional Children and the Young Mens Christian Association; as an advisory counsellor of the Boys' Club; a member of the Metropolitan Board of the Y.M.C.A.; he was also a member of the Shreveport Optimist Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Elks. He served on the Advisory Board of the Shrine Hospital for Crippled

Children and was a member of the Caddo Lodge, Scottish Rite Bodies and the El Karubah Shrine Temple. He had been a member of the Royal Order of Jesters and Shreveport High Twelve Club.

In recognition of his civic efforts, he was named "The Outstanding Man of the Year" for which an award was given to him by the Salvation Army in 1978.

Perhaps a Shreveport Times Editorial, written at the time of his death, best evidences the community's loss:

"The District Court system in Caddo Parish looks a lot different these days than it did in 1961, the year William J. Fleniken was first elected to the bench, and much of the difference is due to his untiring work for improvement.

"Judge Fleniken, the senior judge of the 1st Judicial District until his retirement at the end of 1978, saw the court grow from four to eight judges, working in expanded space in the Caddo Parish Courthouse. He also helped move it into a position of greater independence from the Caddo Parish Police Jury, separating the judicial body from legislative and administrative parish operations as it should be.

"His almost two decades on the bench followed service as first an assistant U.S. Attorney, then U.S. Attorney for the western district of Louisiana, not to mention several years of private law practice.

"That he was also a man of his community is obvious from the list of civic and church boards and committees which used his talents and dedication.

"His death, at age 70, has removed from Shreveport and Caddo Parish a man who helped move his community in positive ways."

Today we are erecting no marble monument to the memory of Judge Fleniken, dedicating no bronze plaque, unveiling no portrait. Instead, we can do something much more meaningful. We can, each of us, resolve to seek to emulate the remarkable life of Judge Fleniken, not alone as members of the Bench and Bar, for that is likely beyond our ability, but as men and women of integrity, dedication and compassion.

Judge Fleniken has left us a rich and rewarding legacy of service to our fellow man. It will require the best in all of us to be worthy of that heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, hereby affirm the respect, the admiration and the regard in which we held Judge William J. Fleniken.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial and resolution be made a part of the records of this Court and that copies of the record hereof be delivered to the members of the family of the late Chief Judge William J. Fleniken.

Ben E. Coleman
BEN E. COLEMAN
Leonard L. Lockard
LEONARD L. LOCKARD
Hugh T. Ward
HUGH T. WARD
Robert G. Pugh
ROBERT G. PUGH,
CHAIRMAN

Shreveport, Louisiana
October 29th, 1979