

MEMORIAL RECOGNITION  
TO  
THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 21, 2005

IN MEMORY OF

ALGIE D. BROWN

Algie Dee Brown was a quiet man of principle, intelligence and integrity and nothing greater could be said of a man, be he lawyer, farmer, doctor, or in whatever profession or calling he chose to serve his fellow man.

Mr. Brown was born in a log house in a small community some 5 to 6 miles from Waldo, Arkansas on March 8, 1910 and came, in 1924 at the age of 14, to Shreveport, Louisiana with his parents and siblings. As recounted in one of his many folk stories, the entire family traveled by horse drawn wagon and settled in the area adjacent to what is now the Christus-Schumpert Medical Center. He attended and was a graduate of C.E. Byrd High School and Centenary College where he served as Editor-in-Chief of Centenary's College Newspaper, The Conglomerate. He earned his law degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1935 and began his private practice of law in

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*Mike Spence*

Shreveport the same year. His continuous practice of law was interrupted only by duty to his country during World War II, in which he served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Pacific Theater aboard the escort aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Natoma Bay, which was the single most decorated escort carrier of the war. Algie was the fighter-director radar officer in the combat information center, responsible for identifying incoming enemy aircraft and directing allied aircraft to intercept them. A Japanese kamakazie plane crashed into the flight deck of the Natoma Bay, during the Okinawa invasion of 1945, endangering the lives of all aboard. Okinawa remains the bloodiest and most costly naval battle that American forces have ever been engaged in, with 1 out of every 4 American ships being sunk or damaged by Japanese Kamikazes or bombs, ending with the deaths of over 10,000 American soldiers. Mr. Brown returned to active practice after honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946 and practiced continuously until his semi-retirement at the age of 84.

Mr. Brown married Hazel Turner Brown in 1947 and two sons survive them, Bryan Turner Brown, a wildlife biologist residing in Salt Lake City, Utah and Curtis Siebert Brown, an art historian and art collector of Shreveport. Hazel predeceased Algie in 1994, and he remarried Elise Beaudreaux Brown in 1996 who predeceased him in 2002.

Algie Brown was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1948, a position which he held with honor and distinction for 6 consecutive terms, running unopposed for the majority of his tenure. He was one of the most respected members of the North Louisiana delegation. A quiet man, never known to blow his own horn, he was instrumental in securing the funding for the establishment of both Southern University in Shreveport and Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He further chaired the committee that rewrote and brought into line with the other 49 states, Louisiana's Business Corporation law.

Algie's law practice consisted primarily of commercial and real estate transactions. He was a master drafter of contracts and other legal documents and a renowned title examiner. He was open to help anyone that came to him with a legal problem and served as the attorney for countless successions, undoubtedly as the result of real estate and other personal clients that had been impressed by his integrity and competent handling of matters he had previously performed on their behalf.

I had the distinct pleasure to have worked for Mr. Brown fresh out of law school at LSU and for my first year of practice. I had come to his office, having been a junior high and high school friend of his son Curtis, simply to secure a recommendation that I was worthy to practice law in Louisiana and got not only this but a job offer. Within 2 days he had me set up in an office, on his letterhead and well on my way to learning the many things they did not teach one about law practice in Baton Rouge. Algie shared his then 45 years of active practice freely and pointed out my blunders and stumbles in ways that made me appreciate the dedication with which he had practiced in the non-litigation area for those many years. I once remarked that he must have title opinions on most every home in Shreveport, only later to learn, as he was closing my first home purchase, that he had also closed the first and only home purchase of my parents for the Prudential Insurance Company, one of his many long standing commercial clients.

Algie and I ate daily at the Pano's Diner on Milam, where old legislative war stories with former representative Frank Fulco and Senator Jackson B. Davis, were recounted with joy. Apparently in the 1950's and 60's the state representatives typically shared or hitched rides with each other to Baton Rouge, and a world of stories were generated by those 4 to 5 hour journeys.

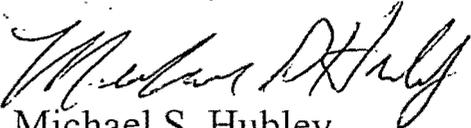
Mr. Brown was foremost a true southern gentleman. I can never remember his having an unkind word for any other lawyer or any other person for that matter. He was an active and very contributing member of his church, The First Baptist of Shreveport, and dedicated his spare time and energy to his wife and two sons. He was a man of order and purpose with an extreme devotion to his wife, Hazel. He in fact had a separate phone line in his office that was reserved for calls with her and her only. It was used for no other purpose. He was an ardent supporter of every charity that ever approached him.

I have missed and will continue to miss Algie Brown. I was able to serve him in his last years as he had served me in my beginning years, performing his personal legal work, hopefully in the manner that I had been properly trained and instructed by him. In the final days of his life, he still had the gleam in his eyes and a smile that made one want to simply sit down and talk with him, trusting the confidentiality he placed in any conversation he had with you. The Shreveport legal community and the citizens of North Louisiana lost a true and noble friend with the passing of Algie Brown on October 29, 2004.

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 Algie D. Brown for his character and ability, his industry, skill and learning, and for his example of the lawyer at his best; and we extend to his sons Bryan T. Brown and Curtis S. Brown our sincere sympathy in their loss.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial 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 our departed brother and friend.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Hubley