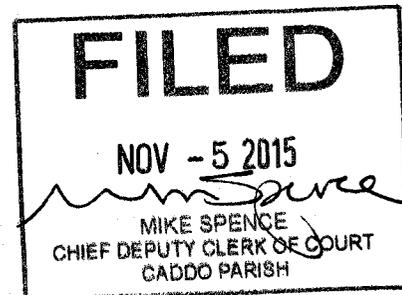


MEMORIAL FOR
THE HONORABLE CHARLES BRINKMANN PEATROSS
PRESENTED AT THE
MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
HELD IN THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 5, 2015
UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION



MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

It is my privilege to deliver these brief remarks about our beloved colleague, Charles Brinkmann Peatross. Judge Peatross was born May 27, 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana and met an untimely death from Alzheimer's Disease on January 28, 2015.

Charles graduated from Byrd High School in 1958, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1963, from Tulane University and in 1964 was awarded his Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University Law School.

These remarks may not be as somber as some appropriately will be today. They may be downright irreverent. If entirely serious, they wouldn't do Charles justice or reflect the Charles Peatross we knew and loved. To say the least, he was known for his inexhaustible appetite for practical jokes, his self-deprecating sense of humor and his inexpertly yet incessantly repeated jokes and stories. To this day, Charles' name frequently comes up among his friends at lunch or at the YMCA. Often it occurs when someone is telling an interminable story that seems to have neither ending nor purpose. Many times someone will ask: "Will you ever get to the point or is this a 'Peatross Story?'" We all wish we could hear one more "Peatross Story" from Charles, himself. He was our friend, my partner, and my mentor.

Judge Peatross' family includes pioneers in the Shreveport legal community. His grandfather, Edwin Peatross, served as Deputy Clerk of Court for Caddo Parish. George Hardy, Sr. and George Hardy, Jr., Charles' great-great uncle and his great uncle, practiced law here from the 19th Century well into the 20th Century. In fact, Judge Peatross' legal career began when he accepted a clerkship with the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 1964 as a clerk for his great uncle, Judge George Hardy, Jr. Charles' brother, Bill, and sister-in-law, Cynthia, continue that proud family tradition of practicing law in Shreveport.

A story about Bill tells you much about both brothers. At his induction ceremony for the Court of Appeal, Charles described Bill as his favorite brother because he is Charles' only brother. In fairness, Bill struck first. Judge Peatross was waistline-challenged. Knowing his brother's sensitivity about that, when Charles confided in Bill that he was considering running for Judge, Bill commented that his interest in the position must be based on the fact that Judges wear robes - the only job with professional apparel that doesn't require a waistband.

In 1966, Charles joined the firm of Wilkinson, Woods, Carmody, Meadows & Hall, which evolved into Wilkinson, Carmody & Peatross. In 1980, Charles and Ed Greer with John Hayter, formed the firm of Peatross, Greer & Hayter. A few years later, I joined Charles and Ed in the firm of Peatross, Greer & Frazier - then Craig Smith joined us.

We had a grand time! Vivid memories from those days include Charles and the fax machine. He was convinced our fax machine was a cross between technology and voodoo. Fax machines often included built-in telephone handsets for voice communication in the 1980s and 1990s. Once, when one of us had called technical support on that phone, we put the fax machine telephone on "speaker" to free up our hands and clear a paper jam, Charles was convinced the machine was so smart it could tell us how to fix itself. We did not stop him from calling others to exclaim about this great advancement in technology.

I will never forget Charles' office at Peatross, Greer & Frazier, or Ed's description of it. As Ed described the interior design elements of Charles' office: there were numerous framed photographs of Charles in spring, Charles in summer, Charles in fall, and the not-to-be missed Charles in winter in his ski outfit.

Public service was a way of life for Judge Peatross. In 1978, he ran for the Shreveport City Council, the first election under the present Mayor/Council form of government and he won. The names of those who served on that first City Council are familiar to us all: former Mayor Jim Gardner, John Scotto, now former Mayor John Hussey, Senator Gregory Tarver, Reverend Herman Farr, and Judge Hilry Huckaby. These men, from dramatically different backgrounds, were giants in our community and grew close working hard for our City. Charles later worked as City Attorney for Mayor John Hussey. Rumor has it that Judge Peatross jokingly complained to John Scotto that he, Charles, had served as a City Councilman and City Attorney and that he wasn't

looking for Mount Rushmore, but naming a road or a building for him seemed appropriate. John Scotto threatened to mount a campaign to name a sewer lift station for Charles.

The 1978 Council race was Charles' only contested election. In 1996, without opposition, he qualified to fulfill the unexpired term on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal of his dear friend, Judge Fred Sexton. In 2002, Charles enjoyed election to a full term, having qualified without opposition.

In addition, Judge Peatross served our community and profession in many more ways, among them, as President of the Shreveport Bar Association, as a twenty (20) year member of the Louisiana State Bar Association House of Delegates, and as Chairman of the Shreveport-Bossier YMCA.

Charles' busy practice was a commercial and estate planning practice that involved a strong helping of litigation. I regret that a number of the younger lawyers never knew Charles as an active practitioner. He had an uncanny sense of what was important, how to address it, and how to best serve his clients. He carried that with him to the bench. To illustrate, Charles and I first met when on opposite sides of a hotly contested case. We went at it hammer and tongs for quite some time. We represented our clients and did so fervently, but maintained our friendship. That's the way it's supposed to work.

Charles left a huge legacy of good friends and was loyal to them. In his professional practice, it's possible that Charles had more than two (2) secretaries, but I know well two great ladies, Judy Roberson and Susan Reeves who collectively covered at least (40) years with Charles. Susan's here today.

In 1962, Charles married Betsy Chandler. Betsy, that's loyalty or perseverance. Charles and Betsy have three (3) children, Christopher Sydney Peatross and his wife, Beverly Jane, Ashley Peatross Sanders and her husband, Troy, and Allison Peatross Walsh and her husband, Patrick, who among them have produced eleven (11) grandchildren.

Charles' daughter Allison, in her eulogy for her dad, quoted many of his life's lessons, notes he or she would jot down. I think they are very much worth hearing again. Wisdom as imparted by Charles to his family:

If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all,

Books make you smarter,

Respect your elders,

Love one another,

Give credit where credit is due,

Take life one day at a time,

Be kind,

Your dog really is your best friend,

Don't be afraid to ask for help,

Don't skimp on the mayo when ordering Jimmy John's,

When possible, pick up the tab,

Don't buy running shoes under \$100.00,

Think before you speak,

Never say, "Betsy, I work",

Be kind to your children, they pick your nursing home,

Don't put diesel fuel in your unleaded car, AND

Save things that are important to you."

Not bad words to live by.

Allison, when a junior in high school, prepared a term paper on Alzheimer's. It was important to the family because Charles' mother and maternal grandfather suffered from Alzheimer's. Judge Peatross added at the end of that term paper:

If you feel your memory seems to be slipping or you are misplacing your glasses or keys, don't panic. As we get older, memories will not be as good as they once were. Forgetting your spouse's birthday does not mean you have Alzheimer's disease. It just means you are in trouble at home.

Bill Peatross provided me with a quotation from the eulogy delivered by Margaret Thatcher for her friend, Ronald Reagan, also felled by Alzheimer's. This is for my friend, Judge Charles Peatross and it expresses it better than I could:

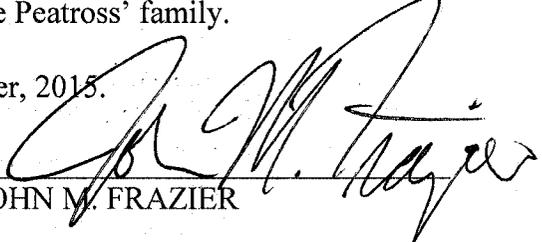
For the final years of his life, his mind was clouded by illness. That cloud has now lifted. He is himself again, more himself than at any time on Earth, for we may be sure that the Big Fellow upstairs never forgets those who remember him. And as the last journey of this faithful pilgrim took him beyond the sunset, and as heaven's morning broke, I like to think, in the words of John Bunyan, that 'all the trumpets

sounded on the other side'. We here still move in twilight, but we have one beacon to guide us that he never had. We have his example.

A great lawyer and judge, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, Charles Brinkmann Peatross. We all miss him.

And now, your Honor, I move that this Memorial be spread on the Minutes of the First Judicial District Court and a copy be provided to Judge Peatross' family.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of November, 2015.


JOHN M. FRAZIER