

SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
HONORING MR. FRANK J. LOONEY
SEPTEMBER 16, 1968

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W. P. [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

Frank J. Looney, the Dean of the Shreveport Bar, died a few months ago in his 95th year. He was born in Shreveport on June 4, 1873 of the marriage between Jeremiah Francis and Isabell Irene O'Neill Looney. He was educated at the Thatcher Institute in Shreveport from which he was graduated at the age of 17.

He studied law under the elder Judge Bell in Shreveport, attended Tulane University Law School for one year and was graduated from the Law School of Washington and Lee University. He was President of his class there, which included Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War under President Woodrow Wilson. They formed a close friendship which lasted throughout their lives. He also became acquainted with Miss Mildred Lee, daughter of Robert E. Lee, who at one time congratulated him on his oratorical ability. His oratorical excellence was evident throughout his long, distinguished and productive career.

He practiced law in New York for a short time but soon returned to Shreveport and was admitted to the bar on July 5, 1894.

At the time of the Spanish-American War he volunteered for service and was commissioned as Captain of Company D of the 2nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He also volunteered for active duty in World War I but declined appointment to the Judge Advocate General's Department, preferring duty with combat troops.

Mr. Looney's practice began at a time when there was little specialization in Shreveport and he practiced both criminal and civil law. He was defense counsel in many of the great criminal cases of his day and also handled many important civil cases, particularly in the field of oil and gas. He was one of the attorneys in the famous "Lilly Taylor" case.

But the one abiding interest of his professional career, that was vivid in his mind to the last, was the Constitution of the United States. He knew the background history of the Constitution, its amendments, and the jurisprudence interpreting it, as few men have known it. He wrote frequently about it - never long, but short, concise, easily understood letters to the press, or monographs distributed to his friends.

His constitutional and historical research has been invaluable to the State of Louisiana in the "Tidelands" controversy with the United States. He was one of the expert members of the Constitutional Convention that wrote our Constitution of 1921.

He had a keen professional interest in politics. He was an expert on the laws pertaining to political parties and elections, and in his more active years took great interest in state and local elections.

He was a devout Christian gentleman, a member of St. Johns Catholic Church which he attended daily. He was familiar with the great theological writings of his Church, as well as the Missal and his Bible. His devoted service to the Church earned for him the Cross of Knight of St. Gregory.

He was a devoted husband and father. His wife, Adeline Leonard, died in 1961. He died on February 17, 1968, leaving six sons: Frank O. Looney, William E. Looney, Charles G. Looney, Patrick W. Looney, Leonard Looney and Fred Looney; two daughters: Miss Josephine Looney and Miss Isabell Looney. He also left one sister, Mrs. C. Redmond Wolf and 12 grandchildren.

The stature and character of Frank J. Looney were well portrayed in an editorial which appeared in The Shreveport Times on February 20, 1968, written by one of his friends and admirers. We take the liberty of including two short excerpts here:

"In 1961, when he was 88 years old, Mr. Looney wrote a series of articles which were published in The Times under the title 'The Trembling Foundations of Our Constitution.' These articles attracted much attention, not only in the local area but in other states. They dealt with the steady erosion of constitutionalism under Supreme Court rulings and disregard for it at various governmental levels - and among many people. They were remarkable not only for their content but for their clarity and their brevity - Mr. Looney's knack of saying a great deal in a very few words.

"Mr. Looney was a native of Shreveport and his death ends an era in the history of this city - an era in which he played an important part in its civic, political and community life. Many people will remember him for many things, but two or three of his 'young' cronies - men only in their 70s as Mr. Looney moved into the 90s - always will remember the informal luncheons they and he had together each year in the final decade of his life, on his birthday. After the luncheons, the group would sit and talk-discussion of world, national, state and local affairs, in which Mr. Looney always led the discussion. The last of these gatherings was held more than a year ago. After it, those who had been Mr. Looney's hosts felt that there would be no more such meetings and they were right. Physical strain was taking an obvious toll on his strength.

"Mr. Looney was a magnificent character. It was education to talk to him, to discuss topics of wide importance. It was a tribute to be counted among his close friends."

The members of the Shreveport Bar will particularly miss this splendid lawyer and man who became a legend in his own time. It will be a long time before we again see one like him.

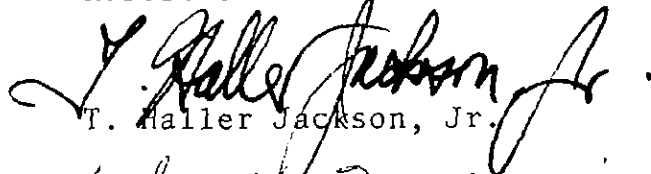
We move that the sympathy and condolences of the Shreveport Bar Association be extended to Mr. Looney's sons, his daughters, his sister, and to the other members of his family, and that copies

of this memorial be sent to each of them; and that it be spread upon the records of the Court and of this Association as a testimonial of the affection and respect of the members of the legal profession in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert G. Chandler



T. Haller Jackson, Jr.



John H. Tucker, jr., Chairman