

FILED

NOV -2 2017

Mike Spence
MIKE SPENCE, CLERK OF COURT
CADDOPARISH

MEMORIAL FOR
JUDGE FRED C. SEXTON, JR.
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 2, 2017
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Fellow judges, family members, friends, and members of the bar:

Judge Fred C. Sexton, Jr. was a man of honor, truth, justice and compassion. He was an inspiration and role model for many lawyers and judges with whom he worked and associated throughout his long and illustrious legal and judicial career.

The members of the committee presenting this Memorial, Justice Victory, Judge Bryson and I, had the great good fortune to work with him, almost daily, at various times for over 25 years as Assistant District Attorneys, District Court Judges, Judges of the Court of Appeal and as a Supreme Court Justice.

Those of us and others who worked with him know especially well what a fine man and a great judge he was.

The son of Eunice Mae McClenaghan Sexton and Fred C. "Doc" Sexton, Judge Sexton was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on December 7, 1938, and passed away, after a brief illness, on July 9, 2017, at the age of 78. He was preceded in death by his parents; his aunts, Gertrude Rogge and Jane Rogge, and her husband Don; and cousins, Jane Ann Jones and Gale Rogge Heath. He is survived by his cousins, Jay Bryan Jones, III and Kristi Cavett Jones, and their father, Jay B. Jones, and his special friend, Mary Roberson.

Judge Sexton attended public schools in Shreveport, graduating from Byrd High School in 1956. He was an outstanding student and, among his many honors, served as president of the Student Council. He was devoted to Byrd through the years and was inducted into the Byrd Hall of Fame in 2011.

After high school, he enrolled in Tulane University. He became the president of his fraternity (SAE) and received a B.A. Degree in Economics. Thereafter, he received his Juris Doctor Degree from the Tulane School of Law in 1961. After graduation from Tulane, Judge Sexton entered the U.S. Army and, while serving as First Lieutenant, was instrumental in preparing his unit for probable deployment during the Cuban Missile Crisis and was actually on his way to Miami for embarkation when the mission was cancelled. After completing his active duty service in the Army, he returned to Shreveport, joined the Army Reserves and attained the rank of Captain.

He began his legal career in private law practice in Shreveport and became a partner in the firm of Hendrick, Fant, Sexton and Bain. He engaged in law practice until he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney for Caddo Parish,

-serving from 1968 to 1974. He was highly respected as a felony prosecutor and rose to a leadership position on the board of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association. He excelled as a prosecutor, specializing in drug prosecutions.

He was intensively involved in the solution to the drug problems of this city and parish. His role as an Assistant District Attorney coincided with the early rise of the drug problems of our young people, and, although he was a prosecutor, he gave of his time and talents to help those caught up in the drug culture. For example, he was active in state as well as local drug abuse programs, such as CODAC (the Community Organization for Drug Abuse Concerns), of which he was a co-founder and president for two consecutive terms. He was also appointed and served for several years on the Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement.

His early years as an Assistant District Attorney also coincided with the so-called "Criminal Law Revolution." This was a time when old practices were replaced with more professionalism in law enforcement, as well as in prosecutorial practices. The tenets of Miranda and its offshoots were taking hold and it was a time when progressive and constitutional safeguards in the area of search and seizure were stressed. Judge Sexton was instrumental in helping the entire District Attorney's staff, as well as the police officers and other law enforcement personnel with whom he worked, to cope with and master the changes.

Judge Sexton was elected as District Judge for the First Judicial District Court in Caddo Parish in 1974 and was reelected without opposition through 1981. In 1982 he was elected as a Judge of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal where he served until his retirement in 1996.

While serving as a District Judge, he led the development of new and innovative case docketing and assignment systems, both civil and criminal, for the assignment of cases to the individual judges and their sections. These systems were of great assistance to the court, the attorneys, the litigants, and the public. Likewise, when he became a Judge on the Court of Appeal, he was able to use his extensive criminal law experience to assist that Court during the early years when it was adding criminal cases to its already crowded civil docket. He was also instrumental in the expansion of the Court of Appeal's central staff of attorneys during the transition.

During his career, in addition to his legal duties, Judge Sexton was active in the Louisiana and Shreveport Bar Associations, as well as other organizations. He was appointed by the Louisiana Speaker of the House to the Louisiana Indigent Defender Task Force and by the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve on the Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee and on the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics.

After his retirement from the Court of Appeal, he was frequently appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to handle all types of cases throughout the state, including cases in the various district courts, the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court itself. He was assigned these appointments because of his ability to handle the cases with justice, competence and dispatch. "Have Gavel, Will Travel" was his motto and he kept a business card in his wallet saying so. He kept himself available to selflessly accept many difficult assignments from the time he retired as an elected judge in 1996 until he died 20 years later.

Considered by many as a role model for judges, Judge Sexton was one of the finest trial judges in the state by virtue of his intelligence, honesty, integrity, courtroom decorum, impartiality, preparedness, and decisiveness. He exhibited high standards and showed respect for litigants, the attorneys, and the public who appeared in his courtroom. He was an articulate expert in the law and applied it accurately, but in a common sense way. He dispensed justice evenly to all who came before his court. He never lost sight of his role as a protector of individual rights, but he also considered the effects of his decisions on the rights and expectations of society as a whole so that law and order could be maintained.

When he assumed the bench as an appellate judge, he continued to carry out those same principles, perhaps from a slightly different perspective and in a little different way, but with the same sincerity. He considered each case which came before him fairly and open-mindedly to the end that justice would be served in civil disputes and in criminal cases. He always sought to do his part to cause the public to have confidence in the judicial system and to do what he could to show that our system, though not faultless, is still the best system of justice devised by man.

Judge Sexton was also a mentor, friend and human being who offered brilliant and insightful comments and possessed an outstanding sense of humor. He was a people person who could talk to anyone about any subject. He was a friend to many people from all walks of life. He was a gifted storyteller with wit and humor, and he could easily capture an impromptu audience beguiling them with his 6 foot 4 inch frame and quick, friendly smile.

Through the years, many young men and women had the unique experience to serve as Judge Sexton's law clerks. After their terms of service, whenever asked, they have all recalled that their years of clerking with Judge Sexton were the most memorable of their careers. Judge Sexton was always willing to share, train, challenge and mentor them. He was devoted to their professional development and, as a result, all of these young lawyers have become successful in their subsequent endeavors.

In his relationships with other judges, he was a true friend. His door was always open to judges to discuss their problems. He was not there to make their decisions, but through discussion and the asking of the right questions, he could lead his colleague in the right direction. He was always helpful in giving needed advice.

He was an avid tennis player in his younger years and a good golfer later on. He loved his animals and listening to country music and dancing. He was the happiest while in the mountains of Taos, New Mexico, wearing cowboy boots and jeans. He loved these things almost as much as he loved LSU football, about which he had an amazing knowledge. He was the biggest LSU fan that Tulane ever produced.

He also had a passion for the Independence Bowl. He was very active in its life for over 20 years. He served on the Team Selection Committee and as Hospitality Chairman, during which he met many local friends of the Bowl, as well as visitors, including visiting coaches and their families who became lifelong friends. He always sought to promote the important goals of the Bowl in reflecting

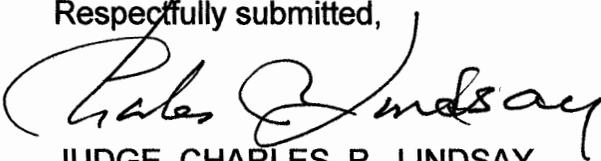
the positive image of our warm and inviting community. Through his service to the Bowl and as a result of his good work, he was selected Chairman of the Independence Bowl in 2011.

He will be missed by so many people from various and diverse circles. To know Judge Sexton was to know a true Renaissance man – a man of law, sports, music, intelligence and life.

He was a grand friend, lawyer, mentor and confidant, and he was a judge whose talents, ability and personality will be sorely missed by the Bench, the Bar and the citizens of this state and this community.

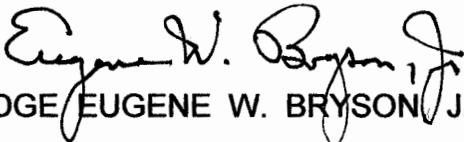
Your Honors, the Committee moves that this memorial be spread upon the minutes of this Court and that copies be delivered to the family.

Respectfully submitted,



JUDGE CHARLES R. LINDSAY

JUSTICE JEFFREY P. VICTORY



JUDGE EUGENE W. BRYSON, JR.