

M E M O R I A L

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FIRST DISTRICT COURT  
CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

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JAMES GEORGE PALMER  
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**FILED**

NOV 13 1952

*E. F. Goeke, Jr.*  
DEPUTY CLERK

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, January 29th, 1952, it was discovered that James George Palmer had, during the preceding night, received his final summons and departed this life at his home at 416 Egan Street, in the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Judge Palmer, as he was affectionately known to a host of friends and acquaintances, lived a colorful and useful life. He was one of the best known and beloved citizens in the northern section of the State.

Judge Palmer was a son of the late William P. and Frances Monk Palmer, having been born to them at their home in the Arizona Community of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, on the 27th day of November, A.D. 1875.

He received his early education in the schools of Claiborne Parish, and later entered Homer College. After finishing his education Judge Palmer taught for several years in the schools of Claiborne Parish and in the schools of Vernon Parish. In 1899 he moved to Leesville, Louisiana, where he studied law in the office of his cousin, James Monk, and was admitted to the State Bar, in March 1901. He then formed a partnership with Mr. Monk in Leesville, for the practice of law.

In 1906 Judge Palmer and Miss Genevieve Stone were united in marriage, and to this union were born one son, A. Stone Palmer, now of Shreveport, and two daughters, who are, respectively now Mrs. James B. Harris, of Shreveport, and Mrs. Charles W. Stokes, of Lake Charles. He was survived by his said wife and children, and several grandchildren.

In January 1915, Judge Palmer moved to Shreveport and formed a law partnership with the late Governor Newton C. Blanchard, and when this partnership was dissolved he practiced for a number of years in association with the late J. Fair Hardin, of Shreveport.

Judge Palmer was an energetic man, and was active in civic and political matters throughout his career. While living in Leesville, he was elected to membership in the Vernon Parish School Board, and later ser-

ved as Vernon Parish Superintendent of Education. While living at Leesville Judge Palmer also served for a time as District Attorney, and later as Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District Court, which is now known as the Eleventh District.

While residing in Shreveport Judge Palmer was elected as Representative from Caddo Parish to the Constitutional Convention of 1921, in which capacity he rendered outstanding service to the Citizens of the State of Louisiana. In 1930 he was elected Mayor of the City of Shreveport, and served in that office from November 10th, 1930, until January 23rd, 1932, when he resigned to accept an interim appointment as Judge of the Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, State of Louisiana, which position he filled with dignity and honor, writing many notable opinions which stand as bulwarks in the jurisprudence of the State.

Judge Palmer served as campaign manager in the northern part of Louisiana for Governor Earl K. Long, in 1940. He later served eighteen months as enforcement Attorney for the Shreveport District Office of the Office of Price Administration, resigning that position August 9th, 1944, out of purely personal preference. In May of 1949, Judge Palmer was appointed Assistant Attorney General of the State of Louisiana by Governor Earl K. Long, and he was still

serving the State in this capacity at the time of his death.

For many years Judge Palmer specialized in Corporation practice, and was at various time the legal representative for several large commercial corporations doing business in the State of Louisiana, and in this field he became known far and wide as a good practitioner, an honorable lawyer, and a most worthy opponent, and as such he reflected great credit upon the Bar of Louisiana by his sagacity and high principles.

Judge Palmer was active in many civic organizations. He was a Mason and took part in Masonic activities. He was also a member of El Karuba Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Hobles of the Mystic Shrine.

He was a Rotarian, and was one of the leaders in the drive to collect funds for the building of Rotary Hall Dormitory at Centenary College in 1926, which structure was a gift of the Club and local residents. He was very fond of Rotary work, and became internationally known while appearing as Rotary representative in Europe some years ago where he met and associated with many of the high ranking personages of that time.

Judge Palmer was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Shreveport Bar Association, and a devout member of the First Methodist Church of Shreveport, which he attended conscientiously and with great

regularity, and served as a member of the Board of Stewards of the church.

He was a fearless fighter in behalf of what appeared to him as the right side of any question to which his interest was attracted. His brother lawyers know of many instances in which this fighting spirit was ably and publicly displayed in the pursuit of his profession.

Judge Palmer's activities, varied though they were, did not prevent him from being a good family man. He was a man of deep affection, and was a model husband and a model father, whose personal character was above reproach. He walked ever upright morally, spiritually, and honorably, before God and man, and this Committee feels that in his passing after fifty years of honorable service as a member of this Bar, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the State of Louisiana, as a whole, suffered a loss that will be long felt by those who have been associated with him, and by those who have seen his works and his examples.

This Committee therefore recommends that this memorial be deposited in the archives of this Honorable Court, and that a copy thereof be presented to the family of the said decedent.

Memorial Committee,

By C. B. Brothie  
Chairman

J. Smith Johnston  
Member

W. B. Massey  
Member