

MEMORIAL  
JOHN A. CARSTARPHEN, JR.  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES HELD  
IN THE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

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**FILED**

SEP 2 1975

*Ebro Perry*  
DEPUTY CLERK

John A. Carstarphen, Jr. was born in the town of Plain Dealing, Louisiana, on May 23, 1916, the son of John A. Carstarphen, Sr. and Lucy Perry Carstarphen. He died at the age of 58 in Alexandria, Virginia on November 25, 1974.

John's family moved in his early years from Plain Dealing, Louisiana, and lived for awhile in Oklahoma and Ft. Smith, Arkansas. John received his elementary education in Oklahoma and his High School education in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Upon graduation from High School, he entered the University of Oklahoma and after two years at the University in the year 1935 transferred to Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, and graduated from Centenary College with honors in 1937 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. While at Centenary, he was a member of the Debating Team and Year Book Staff. Upon graduation from Centenary, he entered Tulane Law School and graduated in 1940 with a L. L. B. Degree.

World War II interrupted the commencement of John's legal career. He had always taken an active interest in military training and was a member of the Louisiana National Guard, 204 Coast Artillery, Anti-aircraft Division, with headquarters at Ft. Humbug in Shreveport, Louisiana. Upon the outbreak of the war in Europe, but prior to Pearl Harbor, his unit was called to active duty and he reported to Camp Hulen, Texas, with the unit. Upon the entrance of the United States into the conflict, the unit was transferred to San Diego, California, where it set up various anti-aircraft defenses on the West Coast where the threat

of possible Japanese air attack existed.

Shortly thereafter, John was transferred to Europe as a member of the 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Group and later in the war he was to land in France with his unit on the Normandy beach, as part of the First Army, shortly after the initial Normandy Beachhead landing operation for the purpose of setting up antiaircraft defenses. John had entered the Army as a First Lieutenant, served in same with distinction, was awarded the Bronze Star and was discharged as a Colonel following the termination of the conflict in October of 1945.

After John's discharge from the Army he returned to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he entered the practice of law with the firm of Mabry & Carstarphen, composed of W. A. Mabry and John's uncle, N. B. Carstarphen. The firm's name was later changed to Carstarphen & Carstarphen upon the death of Mr. Mabry. John engaged in the general practice of law in Shreveport, Louisiana, from 1946 until 1958. During this period, he also served as Assistant City Attorney under the late Mayor Clyde E. Fant and served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Louisiana during Governor Jimmy Davis' administration from 1952 through 1956. During this period of his life while practicing law in Shreveport, Louisiana, he was involved in American Legion work, continued his duties with the Army Reserve (in which he had transferred to the Judge Advocate General Corps) and was active in St. Marks Episcopal Church.

In 1958 John was offered a position by United States Congressman Overton Brooks, Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington, D. C. as Legal Counsel and Chief Clerk for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and he accepted the position and he and his family moved from his home at Monrovia Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Alexandria, Virginia, and he continued his duties with NASA

up until a few months before his death in November of last year when illness forced him to retire. His many duties with the Committee, included not only legal work in drafting and approving all legislative matters which came before the Committee and serving as Legal Advisor to the Committee, but also for a large part, the actual management of the Committee staff. In Washington, he also continued his interest in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the Army Reserve and he held the rank of Colonel in the Corps at the time of his death.

John brought to the practice of law and to his various administrative duties, a bright, keen and retentive mind; this coupled with an affable and pleasant disposition, a deep sense of personal integrity and an unusual ability to express himself made him an outstanding attorney and administrator who was respected and admired by all who came in contact with him.

John married Helen Lochte in Houston, Texas, while in the service on May 3, 1941 and they had three lovely daughters, Johel, Janet and Ann and one son, John IIIrd, and five grandsons. He was a kind and loving father and husband and took a real close and personal interest, along with his wife Helen, in the varied affairs of his children and grandchildren.

We do not know well, the other older members of the Carstarphen family, but we think we pay John the highest respect when we say that he possessed in a very large degree, many of those fine characteristics which are found in his uncle, N. B., who is now 81 years of age, who handled his first case before this court 54 years ago, and who is now totally blind, but who is still possessed with a mind alert and a heart alive to all that goes on about him.

To John's widow Helen, to his father John A. Carstarphen, Sr., to his three daughters, Johel, Janet and Ann, to his son John, to his brothers,

Edward and James, and to his host of friends and to this Court, we the undersigned, offer this brief memorial to the memory of John A. Carstarphen, Jr. and ask that it be inscribed in the record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of September, 1975, by the undersigned.

  
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HUGH M. STEPHENS

  
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HORACE M. HOLDER

  
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LORE J. ROSS