

MEMORIAL FOR  
LEROY HARVARD SCOTT, JR.

FILED

OCT 24 2003

*Dianne Dougherty*  
DIANNE DOUGHTY  
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

On April 1, 2003 Leroy Havard Scott Jr., Attorney, passed away, in uniform, in court, in the service of his client; thus ending a 53 year commitment to zealous representation within the bounds of the law.

Leroy Scott was the youngest old man I ever knew. He approached life with exuberance and the practice of law with a sense of adventure. In his last years he was plagued with Parkinson's Disease such that his physical appearance belied his former active and robust life.

Leroy Scott's undergraduate degree was Physics from Centenary College where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1943. He volunteered for submarine duty in World War II, eventually attaining the rank of Commander, U.S. Navy. In the early days of sonar, he was the submarine communications and electronics officer, pulling duty on the U.S.S. R-9, U.S.S. Sailfish and U.S.S. Blackfin. His service included a tour of duty in the Pacific as well as participation in "Operation Iceberg", the first submarine wolf pack to enter the Arctic Ocean north of the Arctic Circle.

Post war, he received his law degree from Louisiana State University in 1950. Many years of Leroy's life were spent in the pursuit and dissemination of formal education. He pursued physics and mathematics at the graduate level and taught various Army and Navy training programs. After the war he taught for years at Centenary College. Classes included algebra, trigonometry, calculus, physics, nuclear physics astronomy and physical and geometrical optics as well as a broad variety of law related subjects. While in college Leroy served as President of the Graduate Student Body, was a member of the Student Board of Editors of the Law Review, was named to Whose Who of American College and Universities and was a member of several scholastic honorary fraternities.

For 15 years he was on the instructional staff of the Naval Reserve Officers School teaching classes that ranged from Military Justice and International Law, to Oceanography and National Strategy in the Cold War. Additionally, for 14 years he was engaged in the active supervision of the Louisiana Chapters of Kappa Alpha, where under his leadership both student and alumni chapter strength more than doubled.

While serving in the Navy Mr. Scott married the former Rebecca Campbell, daughter of the late Judge James Campbell, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, Pennsylvania and the late Helen Campbell. Leroy and Becky had two children, Rebecca Scott Bockmon and Leroy Havard Scott, III. He was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church where he was a licensed Lay Reader and licensed to administer the Sacred Chalice.

When I first met Leroy Scott, in 1974, he was the same age I am now. We became acquainted by virtue of overlapping political and philosophical interests. Leroy was a Libertarian in Republican clothing. He believed vigorous participation in the political realm was essential for the maintenance of personal liberty and the nurturing of personal responsibility. He was extremely proud of his opportunity to meet Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater and Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. He was very-active in the campaigns of all three; Goldwater and Reagan out of affection and shared conviction, and Richard Nixon out of fear of the alternative.

Leroy Scott was an instrument rated pilot, at one time owning three planes, a prospector who led several expeditions into the Superstition Mountains, a frequent Ad Hoc Judge, and a staunch defender of the


Constitution in general and the Second Amendment in particular. He testified frequently at the Louisiana Legislature on firearms related legislation where his perspective as both a life member of the National Rifle Association and President of the Shreveport Humane Society was actively sought. He took pride in the fact that during the years he was involved with the legislature, not a single restriction on the private ownership of firearms survived the legislative process.

As an attorney, Leroy Scott was a serious adversary regardless the size of the case or the amount of the fee. He held the quantum record in a Federal Wage and Hour case for several years until he broke his own record. By the same token, he took a radar case to the Supreme Court, establishing the right of a defendant to seize the radar and have it independently tested, thereby causing financial panic in numerous towns and villages along the rural byways of the State.

Leroy once remarked that a touch of paranoia was essential to the successful practice of law and that touch probably saved his life. Leroy was busy one morning pre-flighting his Bonanza for a trip to Dallas, when his teeth began to ache. As Leroy later said, "my teeth never hurt before so I wondered what was happening". Having just had a major physical for an insurance policy, he was confident in his good health but being just paranoid enough to take the aching teeth seriously, he put on oxygen from the plane and went to the Schumpert Emergency Room. Watching the monitor, he related he could see the heart attack before he could feel it. Suddenly a nurse stuck her head in his face yelling, "whose your doctor, whose your doctor?" Considering the query superfluous, Leroy snapped, "I'm Peyton Kelly's oldest pediatric patient" and lost

consciousness. The heart attack and resulting damage were severe and resulted in the loss of his pilot's license. None the less Leroy remained active and vigorous for many years thereafter, engaged in the successful practice of law, extensive travel, and active participation in the Republican Party at the State and Local level. Life became a bit less colorful when Leroy died. He is mourned by his family and missed by a wide circle of friends and colleagues.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Roy L. Brun, District Judge