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IN MEMORIAM - MELVIN F. JOHNSON

1893 - 1977

One of Shreveport's oldest and most revered attorneys, Melvin F. Johnson, passed away on January 10, 1977, in the City of Shreveport.

Melvin, as we all knew him, was born in Mayville, North Dakota, in 1893, and in his early youth his parents moved to Jennings, Louisiana, where they became engaged in the rice industry. There he received his high school education, after which he attended Louisiana State University, from which he received his B.A. and L.L.B. degrees. While at that college he won letters in football, basketball and track, and was well known in athletic circles throughout the South.

He enlisted in the Armed Services in World War I and served honorably in the Field Artillery Corps as a high ranking officer on the battle front in France, receiving a discharge with a distinguished record.

After his discharge Mr. Johnson moved to Minden, where he became associated with the late Judge Robert Roberts for several years. He then decided to move to Shreveport, where he became associated with the late Yandell Boatner in a successful practice. After severing this connection, he became the senior member of a new firm known as Johnson, Egan, Morelock and Gatti, which association lasted until shortly before his death when Mr. Johnson decided to enter private practice and thus continued until his death.

Shortly after his discharge he was married to Dorothy Israel, daughter of Edward E. and Marie Israel. He was a devout worker in the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport and founded the

Men's Bible Class of that church. He was joined by his wife in many and various worthy civic activities in Shreveport. He was a charter member of the Shreveport Little Theatre, one of the founders of Southfield Day School, a member of the Young Men's Christian Association, a member of the Public Affairs Research Council and the Louisiana Historical Society; organizer and president of the Community Concerts Association, a life member of the American, Louisiana and Shreveport Bar Associations, as well as being a Thirty-second Degree Mason and a member of The American Legion and other veterans organizations.

During his professional career, Mr. Johnson represented prominent clients and outstanding corporations, including J. B. Beaird Corporation and Riverside Irrigation Company, Inc. of Jennings, and he was a director of the old Caddo Oil Company. As a practicing attorney he was a disciple of the old school of that profession, following during his career the strict code of professional ethics as applied generally by Shreveport attorneys and setting an example which should be followed by all of us as members of the Shreveport Bar.

Mr. Johnson is survived by a son, Dr. Melvin F. Johnson, Jr., a prominent physician of Shreveport, and a daughter, Mrs. Eugene Fleming, of Clayton, Missouri, and six grandchildren. Burial rites were performed by Dr. Frank Alexander, pastor, and Mr. Norman Z. Fisher, director of music, of the First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this, the Shreveport Bar Association, in regular assembly go on record this day as deploring the loss of our most worthy brother and fellow member and extend to his immediate family our sincerest sympathy and condolences in their great loss.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the First District Court of Louisiana and copies of same be sent to the immediate family of our deceased brother.

Respectfully submitted,


RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE



Wilburn V. Lunn



John A. Files



Percy N. Browne, Chairman