

**MEMORIAL FOR MERRILEE ALBRIGHT**

**PRESENTED AT THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION  
MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
ON OCTOBER 29, 2009**

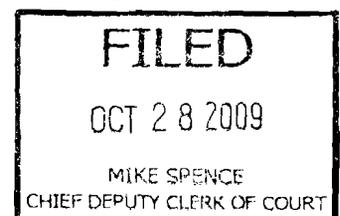
MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

It is my honor and privilege to present this memorial for my friend Merrilee Grace Prentice Albright, who died on December 29, 2008.

Merrilee was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on November 19, 1933. Her father, Robert Prentice, was a Presbyterian minister. During her childhood her family lived in Oregon and Montana. After graduating from high school in Helena, Montana, Merrilee moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she became a Registered Nurse. There she met and on June 25, 1954, married the love of her life, Dr. James Aaron Albright. After finishing his tour of duty in the military at bases in England and Germany, Jim joined the staff at Yale Medical School and they moved to West Haven, Connecticut. In addition to raising their three children, Merrilee became active in the community and political causes.

In 1978, Merrilee and Jim moved to Shreveport, when he accepted the position of Chairman of the Orthopaedic Surgery Department at LSU Medical Center, a position he held until 2006. Berry and I first met Merrilee and Jim in our backyard shortly after they moved to Shreveport. They were our backdoor neighbors. Merrilee was well known at Yale and LSU Medical Schools for her support of resident surgeons in training and their spouses.

After her children were in college, Merrilee decided it was time to further her education. She enrolled in LSUS and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in history. Then, at age 53, she entered Tulane Law School, and graduated in due course with her law degree.



*Mike Spence*

With her legal training, she combined her skills in law and nursing to teach nurses how to cope in the legal environment in Shreveport and even spent some time in the country of Latvia. Merrilee provided free legal services to a wide range of people, from juveniles to senior citizens. The Shreveport Pro Bono Board honored her twice for her hundreds of hours of free service to the indigent of Shreveport. She was active as a CASA volunteer at Caddo Juvenile Court. Merrilee was a people person who touched and made a positive impact on the lives of many people.

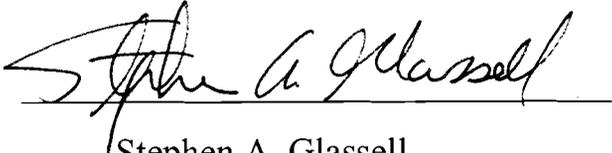
Her husband Jim still lives in their home on Fairfield Avenue. Merrilee was the proud mother of three children: Dan, Susie, and Linda, and grandmother of eight grandchildren.

I requested the assistance of her daughter Linda Albright Tomb to express what it meant to her mother to be an attorney. Linda responded:

“In looking back at her legal "career," I think the common thread was her desire for all to have equal access to the legal system, and to help the less fortunate maneuver the system. It started with her Pro Bono work, which I remember her being quite proud of and excited by. That then led to her years of working in the juvenile/family court, where she was passionate about helping families and kids find the best living situations possible. She took that work to heart. Later on, she parlayed her enthusiasm into her work with Prepaid Legal Services Inc, which offers professional legal counsel at an affordable price. Finally, she capped her legal career as lead plaintiff in the Southern Trace lawsuit, which made national headlines by breaking down sex discrimination barriers. My mom cared deeply about justice and about ensuring that all had equal access to it. I don't think she ever charged a dime for her legal counsel, nor did she care about doing so!”

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, we submit this memorial to the Memory of Merrilee Albright and move that it be inscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that appropriate copies be presented to her family.

Respectfully Submitted on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

  
Stephen A. Glassell