

**MEMORIAL FOR JUDGE MONTY MEARES WYCHE
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 13, 2014
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

Judge Monty Meares Wyche was born in Plain Dealing, Louisiana, on December 4, 1926, and he died some 87 years later in a Shreveport Hospital, surrounded by his beloved wife, Ann, and their children, Martha, Wes, and Tim. His death on July 28, 2014, culminated a long life of service to the Bench and Bar, his country, church and community.

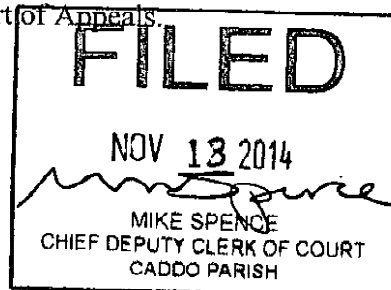
Judge Wyche graduated from Benton High School and attended LSU for one year before he enlisted in the United States Army during World War II. After the war he completed his college education at LSU and entered LSU Law School. There he received his LLB Degree, which was later changed to Juris Doctor Degree.

Judge Wyche served again in the Army during the Korean War. After that service, he served in the Naval Reserve and attained the rank of Commander before his retirement. Like so many war veterans, he rarely talked about his combat experiences, but he was fiercely proud of his service to his country. He retained membership in the Retired Military Officers Association, so he could keep in contact with many who served like he did. One of the joys of his life was to go with Ann and other friends for meals and fellowship at the Barksdale Officer's Club.

After his active military service, Judge Wyche returned to Bossier Parish and practiced law for over 15 years in the firm of Wallace, Wyche and Bigby. He also served as an assistant District Attorney for Bossier and Webster Parishes.

Judge Wyche was one of the few Judges in the State of Louisiana, where Judges are elected, who never had a contested election. Under Louisiana law in 1969, when a vacancy occurred in a Judgeship, the position was filled by appointment. Judge Wyche's peers and colleagues at the bar assisted in securing his appointment as District Judge of the 26th Judicial District Court for Bossier and Webster Parish. He was unopposed for re-election for each succeeding six year term until his retirement in 1988. He left an indelible but quiet mark on the Judiciary and practice of law from 1950 through his retirement, and even beyond.

After retirement, Judge Wyche continued to serve as Judge Ad Hoc, being appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve in his own 26th JDC and also the First JDC in Caddo Parish. He served numerous times in the 26th and he served 3 terms of 9, 3 and 7 months in Caddo. He also served terms on the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeals.



The Louisiana Supreme Court also selected him to serve on the Judicial Council, and he served on the Council of the Louisiana Law Institute. On both of those Councils he used his wisdom and sound judgment to recommend new laws and amendments to existing laws to the Louisiana Legislature.

Judge Wyche was a long-time member and elder in Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bossier City. He was a man of quiet, but deep faith, and he enjoyed his Sunday School Class and time spent at church with friends and fellow members.

He was also an avid LSU Tiger sports fan. He enjoyed gardening, bicycling and family times and trips together.

I had the privilege of serving as a District Judge with Judge Wyche for ten years. He was known and respected for his fairness, calm demeanor and his kind, gentle, loving spirit. All the court employees and the courthouse employees with whom he worked loved him dearly.

I have said many times that Judge Wyche was one of the kindest and gentlest men I ever knew. His genuine compassion for those who came before him in court caused him to struggle with decisions involving sentencing of law violators. It was not his nature to be hard on anyone, but whenever the time came, he did what had to be done, but always with his gentle spirit.

Many Judges and attorneys alike have expressed their fond memories of Judge Wyche. Some of the Judges who knew him well have written about those memories:

Retired Judge Eugene W. Bryson, Jr.:

“Although I knew Judge Monty Wyche by reputation as being an excellent judge of the 26th Judicial District Court, I became personally acquainted with him in 1995 when he was assigned as a visiting judge to the 1st Judicial District Court. Many times, while he was on our court, we ate together and discussed both legal matters and important issues of the day. In doing so, we became close personal friends.

Monty projected a calm, compassionate nature, yet he possessed a full knowledge of and commitment to the letter of the law. Nevertheless, in all he did he was courteous and kind to both litigants and lawyers alike.

Monty was always concerned with three aspects of life: (1) his family, (2) the nation, and (3) the work of the judiciary. In all of these matters, he was a person who was a true gentleman. He was proud of and showed his great love for his family; he exhibited patriotism as a naval officer; and he always sought to accomplish a just verdict in every case. He was a true “gentleman judge” and one of the finest men I have ever known. The world is a better place because of Judge Monty Wyche.”

**Judge Henry N. Brown, Jr,
Chief Judge, Second Circuit Court of Appeals:**

“I had the good fortune of knowing Judge Wyche when he was an attorney, Assistant District Attorney and Judge. Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting in a particular way. Judge Wyche always acted with clarity, simplicity, honesty and accuracy. As a Judge he politely listened and

got to the heart of the matter. Even when, as an attorney in his court you lost, he made you feel that you did a good job. He did not lecture; he taught and inspired. Today, we live in a partisan and contentious society. Today, we need men and women like Judge Wyche, who had a way of calming the bitter strife."

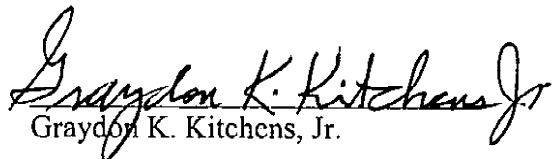
Judge Ford E. Stinson, Jr.:

"Judge Monty M. Wyche was the epitome of what a good judge should be. I had the pleasure of practicing law before him for eleven years prior to his retirement in 1988. He always showed respect to those appearing before him. I never once heard him raise his voice, and there were many times when he would have been justified in doing so, yet he commanded dignity in his courtroom simply by his demeanor and decorum. After my election to the district bench in 1996, I had the honor of serving with him in 1999 and in 2004 when he returned to our Court to fill unexpired terms of other judges. As a judge, I have always tried to have the patience that Judge Wyche exhibited, and he still continues to inspire me to do the best job I can possibly do. Judge Wyche was a true gentleman and statesman, and our community is a better place as a result of his service."

These recollections describe Judge Wyche well. I cannot improve on what they said.

Judge Wyche is survived by his wife, Ann Wesson Wyche, and their three children, Martha Wyche Singletary and husband, Robert of Baton Rouge; James Wesson Wyche and wife, Shannon Kring Wyche of Shreveport, and Timothy David Wyche of Madisonville; six grandchildren; and a sister, Madge Wyche Bryce and husband Don of Minden.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, we submit this memorial to the memory of Judge Monty Meares Wyche, and we move that it be subscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that appropriate copies be presented to his family.


Graydon K. Kitchens, Jr.