

**FILED**

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IN MEMORIAM

TAYLOR W. O'HEARN

DEPUTY CLERK

Taylor W. O'Hearn, who passed away in April of this year, was born in Shreveport in the year 1908. He lived a complete, full and totally examined life, even from time to time quoting Aristotle that "the unexamined life is not worth living". He was an unrepentant Irishman and a direct descendant Meriwether Lewis, who together with his partner William Clark, explored and mapped the great Northwest Territory. He is survived by his wife Gladys, whose children, in addition to his own, he took and raised. He was preceded in death by one of those stepchildren, Paul Kennon, who was an architect of international prominence. At the time of his death, he was survived by two children, nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Taylor O'Hearn's life was a continuing accumulation of study and knowledge. He came to the practice of law later in life than most. In his early years, he earned money playing saxophone, clarinet and occasionally doing vocals with various big bands. He studied accounting and became employed as a bank examiner, working not only in Louisiana, but in Central and South America on behalf of American banks doing business in those countries.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Taylor, then in his thirties, joined the Navy and upon conclusion of his service there, became active in the American Legion and served as Commander of American Legion Post 14, Lowe-McFarland. He was also an active member and officer of the 40 and 8 Club.

Utilizing the benefits of the GI Bill, Taylor returned to school where he earned an accounting degree and then tested and received his C.P.A. designation. Continuing, he studied and read law at Centenary College, passing the bar exam in his forties. Among others, he partnered with Dwight Brown, Sr. for many years, a member of the local bar who also is both a C.P.A. and an attorney.

However, Taylor O'Hearn was not content with the quiet practice of law. He became acquainted with and then a close friend of the late Charlton Lyons, who built the modern Republican Party in the state of Louisiana. Taylor ran for public office on several occasions. He was elected to the Louisiana Legislature in 1963, along with Morley Hudson, also from Shreveport, and Rod Miller of

Lafayette. These three were the first Republicans elected to the Louisiana Legislature since President Rutherford B. Hayes pulled the federal troops out of Louisiana in 1877 at the end of Reconstruction. In the Legislature, Taylor O'Hearn originally proposed what finally became Interstate 49. For many years the project was known as "The O'Hearn Expressway". He lived to see it completed over thirty years after he made the original proposal.

One of the memorable aspects of Taylor O'Hearn's political activity that he treasured highly was his opportunity to become acquainted and develop a friendship with Barry Goldwater. Taylor was a delegate to the 1964 Republican National Convention which nominated Senator Goldwater for President of the United States. Upon his return from that convention, Taylor actively campaigned and was instrumental in carrying the state of Louisiana for the Goldwater presidential campaign. He would often reminisce to me about that historic convention and the stirring words of Barry Goldwater that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue".


Taylor O'Hearn was also very active in his religious denomination. He was a lay minister and preached widely in Louisiana as well as participating in various ministries abroad where he preached in several foreign countries.

In his later years, Taylor O'Hearn became a skilled photographer, making numerous trips in pursuit of this interest and winning many awards for his photographic skill.

As an attorney, Taylor's particular interest was the United States Constitution and the development and application of Constitutional Law. He wrote several books for the layman, including a very readable treatise on the United States Constitution which included summaries of various landmark cases.

The defining characteristic of Taylor's personality was his thirst for knowledge and his continual research and study. This continued unabated throughout his entire life, including his last months as he relentlessly studied all available knowledge regarding myasthenia gravis, the disease that claimed his life. I am fortunate to have known Taylor O'Hearn and shared office space with him. We join his extensive family and his many friends in church work and political activity who mourn his death.

Thus done for the Shreveport Bar Association this 30th day of October,  
1997.

  
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Roy L. Brun