

MEMORIAL FOR
HON. CHARLES A. "CORKY" MARVIN
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 24, 2003
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

FILED

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Dianne Doughty
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DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

When Charles A. Marvin was born in Jonesville, back in 1929, he was not expected to live. Weighing two and one-half pounds, he spent the first few weeks of his life in a home-made cradle - a shoe box in a bureau drawer. He never became a large man physically, but he lived an unusually large life in 74 years.

Educated at Louisiana Tech, where he served two years as a cheerleader, Corky graduated as the outstanding journalism student of 1950, having served as editor of THE TECH TALK, thereby gaining expertise which proved quite helpful in his later career as an appeals judge. All his law clerks recall this adage: "There is no such thing as good writing - only good re-writing."

At the outbreak of the Korean War, Corky enlisted in the Air Force. Four years later, after serving his tour of duty, he enrolled at LSU Law School, where he roomed with three unique individuals, all to become successful lawyers and lifetime friends:

- a personable and charismatic young man from Natchitoches named Jack Brittain;
- a quiet and polite fellow from Minden named Luther Moore; and
- an unquiet and brilliant individual from down south named Frank Maraist.

Corky soon began dating a beautiful and spunky girl from Minden named Rebecca Campbell. Once, the night before a particularly grueling exam, Frank, the scholar, was extremely worried about Corky, the lover. When Corky got in late from his date with Becky, Frank had carefully prepared him a review sheet so that Corky could at least scratch out a hook the next day in this terribly difficult course. When

Frank offered Corky the material, Corky, reclining upon his bunk bed, dreamily said "Frank, just read it to me a couple of times."

The young lawyer began practice with Campbell and Campbell of Minden, a Minden firm including Corky's Daddy-in-Law, John T. Campbell, and Mr. John T's little brother, Cecil P. Campbell. This firm was soon to become a Louisiana Legend of its own in both law and politics. Corky fit right in.

Elected District Attorney of the 26th Judicial District in 1971, at the age of 42, Corky Marvin's tenure as the Chief Prosecutor of Bossier-Webster is credited with cleaning up the Bossier strip. He was a great courtroom lawyer, with a tremendous record. And he did it professionally, before professionalism became a formal requirement of the bench and bar. Corky co-founded and was president of the Inns of Court chapter here in Shreveport.

Four years after being elected D. A., Charles Marvin was elected to the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, where he would serve for almost two dozen years, eight of which as Chief Judge. In 1995, he was elected president of the National Council of Chief Judges.

It was as a judge that most of us remember Corky. He authored over 6,000 opinions. He strove for collegiality on the court; he made a point of calling everyone by name, from the highest of the high, to folks of modest circumstances. He humanized life, and made it better for those around him. He invariably appealed to the best in people.

Judge Marvin was a man of immediacy - he dealt in the NOW. You had to be careful in saying this: "Corky, you know one day we ought to go ABC," because his probable response was: "Let's go right now - we'll take your car!"

Judge Marvin was a family man. He adored Becky, and their three daughters: Melissa, Michelle, and Mary Margaret, their son Schuyler, as well as their spouses and beautiful children. He had a special, loving relationship with his mother-in-law, Miss Mary Campbell, who also survives him.

Judge Marvin was generous - with his time, his money, his knowledge, his

excellent salad-making abilities and with his home. Innumerable families have been honored and made to feel special by the Marvins hosting an event for them. He and Becky did this because often others wouldn't. They did it because it was the right, the decent and the kind thing to do.

Honors and Awards? Too numerous to mention. If I had five hours, maybe I could cover them. Suffice to say Judge Marvin was a born leader.

Judge Marvin was approachable. All visitors to the First Methodist Church of Minden were welcomed, made comfortable and put at ease by a kindly man who introduced himself as Corky Marvin. It was usually weeks later before the newcomers were told - by someone else - what the gentleman did for a living.

Judge Marvin was a courageous fighter- he fought fairly for his clients, he fought adamantly for his principles, and, for 18 rough months, he fought bravely for his life - with dignity and perseverance. He held his head up and set an example that few of us could ever match. He did live to see his son follow him as District Attorney, which may have been one of Corky's most delicious moments.

This wonderful man lived his life fully and well - as a husband, a father, a leader, a lawyer, a prosecutor, a judge, and most importantly, as a human being. His early death diminishes us all. You see, Charles A. Marvin was always small in physical stature, but he was a giant to so many of us. And we will always look up to him and be profoundly in his debt. What a unique and special person - What a true friend!

We are honored to submit this memorial to the memory of Judge Charles A. "Corky" Marvin and move that it be inscribed upon the records of the First Judicial District Court, and that certified copies be presented to his proud and loving family.

Written, Re-Written and now Respectfully Submitted on this 24th day of October, 2003.

Harmon Drew, Jr.
Jean Talley Drew
David P. Tullis
John C. Campbell