

**MEMORIAL FOR
DONALD LEE WILSON
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND
RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD BY THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 28, 2021
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

Donald Lee Wilson, or "Don" to those who knew him, passed away at 66 years old, which is far too young.

Like all of us, he was born, had family, and was loved by them.

He was born in the piney woods region in Alexandria, Louisiana, on March 2, 1953, to loving parents, and he left this world in January of 2020, surrounded by his loving wife and his loving children, who are left to cherish his memory.

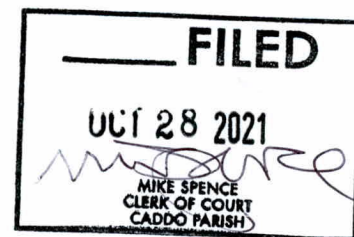
His wife of 21 years, Natalie, and his children Aaron, Logan and Rachel share fond memories of Don, and the lessons shared with them throughout their lives of how to treat people, work hard, be detailed and thorough, and that it takes being devoted to be successful.

As I said, like us, he was born, had a family, and was loved by them.

But this event, this gathering of those in the legal profession, is not only a time to remember those who have passed from this life, but it is a time to recognize their contributions to our profession. You see, the Wilson family will long remember the private laughs, personal stories, and love shared by them. We all aspire to for our loved ones to remember us as fondly.

But what is noteworthy and appropriate to remember as our gathering today, is that Don Wilson also lived a life enmeshed in the law and achieved success while treating others with respect.

Don was a kind man. His large stature may seem at first intimidating to some, until they saw his smile.



He was smart, very smart. A kind of “spooky smart” in certain areas of the law which resulted from a dedicated, continual study of the law. His expertise and knowledge in the field of real estate was equaled by few. He helped establish and grow a law practice with another real estate giant, David Touchstone, which for years harnessed unparalleled knowledge, skill and ability.

He was an accomplished businessman. He had diverse interests, and diverse talents and an understanding of how to evaluate business opportunities, and how to make them successful. He relied on his refined understanding of the law, and it served him well.

And once successful, he knew how to sustain businesses. Oftentimes that required overcoming a myriad of legal challenges. Business partners relied on his knowledge and skill to negotiate into and out of situations and agreements, and he was well known as someone you could rely on to comprehend the most complex of legal predicaments, and chart a course to resolution.

Don was kind. He extended his friendship and experience early in my legal career and was a good example for young lawyers then and today, or how to be combatants in the courtroom, but friendly and collegial out of it. He did that for many lawyers during their career. Something at which we all should concentrate on doing a better job.

We live in world where we rush to find differences. Our society is quick to define people by one issue and assign value based upon whether or not we agree. Sadly, our ability to disagree, and to do so on an intellectual level, rather than a raw emotional level, is diminished and that is doing harm to the fabric of our society. It is causing division between neighbors, straining friendships and relationships, and damaging our profession.

Practicing law is hard enough without intentionally making it harder for someone.

Don Wilson appreciated that reality. A tough negotiator, he was not a mean or spiteful person. A zealous advocate, he did not define people by their lot in life or position on a particular issue in dispute.

Don Wilson was kind. He was generous. Generous with his time and his resources. He helped others when he could and never sought attention or accolades for doing so. He did it because it was the right thing to do. He did not draw distinctions because he may be on an opposite side in an issue. He was an accomplished, scholarly lawyer and successful businessman. And he accomplished both, and much more, while being a loving husband and father. We should all aspire to have such words spoken about each of us when that time comes. Well done, Don.