

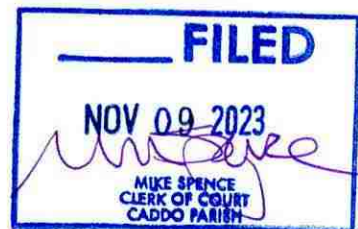
**MEMORIAL FOR
DAVID GERALD TYLER
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

GOOD AFTERNOON YOUR HONORS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

Family, friends, and fellow members of the bar,

David Gerald Tyler was born on June 17, 1949, and passed away on December 19, 2022. Most people knew him as “Jerry” or D.G. Jerry, for the most part grew up in Springhill, Louisiana, where he graduated from Springhill High School in 1967. He obtained an undergraduate degree from LSU in 1971 in finance and continued his education at LSU Law School obtaining his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974.

Following graduation from law school, he moved to Shreveport where he began the practice of law. Jerry and I had known each other from our high school days. Now, as this story goes, you will learn that Jerry did not like to miss meals and breakfast was one of his favorites. When I moved to Shreveport in the fall of 1975, we renewed our relationship beginning at breakfast at Murrell’s Grill on the corner of Kings Highway and Youree Drive. For you youngsters, that location is sometime referred to as What A Murrell’s! In the early 80s, the breakfast location moved down the street to George’s Grill where you could find Jerry every morning. In the early summer of 1978, Jerry asked me to join him in the practice of law. Tyler & Johnson began around November 1, 1978, and we close the firm 36 years later on October 31, 2014.



Jerry was a hard working dedicated lawyer who was a tough-minded, steadfast counsel in the courtroom. He paid attention to details of the facts and law in each case. Jerry would go the extra mile for his clients, but his defining characteristic was his kindness. Jerry was a good listener and sounding board for his clients, friends, and family to whom he would provide thoughtful advice. On the subject of his kindness, Jerry seemed to attract people that needed help. In some way or another, he represented or helped every waitress, bus boy, and cook at George's Grill. When George's closed, he moved down the street to Strawn's and knew the names of all the employees. They all came to him for his advice. He was such a regular that the next thing I see listed on the menu was an entrée titled "Jerry's Omelet."

Jerry hired Ginny Caver, his first of only two legal assistance of his entire legal career, in 1975. Ginny's best friend was Karen. Their first introduction was Karen this is Mr. Tyler. When Jerry and I first started practicing we were both single. At one point, he was named the "Most Eligible Bachelor" in Shreveport, but that slowly began to unravel on a Wednesday, September 2 1981. Did I mention Jerry did not miss a meal! Karen happened to be at the office after five and Jerry asked her to an impromptu dinner date. Things progressed. Snow skiing was a passion he developed from his college days at LSU. His passion for skiing in Colorado brought the greatest love into his life when he asked Karen to marry him on a ski trip to Colorado in February of 1982 and they were married in June.

Jerry is survived by Karen and his three children, Claire Jain and her husband, Aman; Paige Sipes and her husband, Chris, his son Peyton; along with his grandchildren, Makai and Mira Jain; Marigold and Leo Sipes and his sister, Ginger Doherty and her husband, Tim. His family was a major part of his life and

he loved all of them dearly. And yes, Karen and Jerry would take family vacations many of which were snow skiing trips to Colorado with other families.

Additionally, He enjoyed playing tennis; he was avid golfer in high school and college; and he would take long bicycle rides with family and friends. On weekends, he would ride a bicycle from his house near Blanchard to George's. Jerry tended to like speed. Not just racing down the ski slopes, but he like fast cars. In the late 70s, he drove a Datsun 240 Z, bright orange in color. In the late 80s, he had red Mercedes two seater convertible. In the mid-nineties, he drove a black 911 Porsche convertible. Amidst these sports cars, Jerry return to his country boy roots and acquired a couple of pickup trucks. Jerry thought pickup trucks should not have any frills. His first truck was a Dodge standard shift, six-cylinder truck with no air condition.

Much to my chagrin, I borrowed that truck once. I had to pick up a ladder from the old federal courthouse that was introduced into evidence during a federal trial. Our office was on Marshall Street and I as turned on Marshall Street leaving the courthouse there was a policeman on horseback in the alley between the church and Mid-South Towers. The officer hailed me down which at first I thought it was a friendly gesture, but soon found out the truck had an expired inspection sticker, expired insurance certificate, and an expired license plate. Three tickets later I was back at the office fuming while Jerry was crying in laughter. Jerry liked to tease and have a good laugh. He was also a good sport at anything coming his way such as the time on his birthday when someone rented a large sign and put in front of the office that said Honk, it's Jerry's Birthday. I did not realize we had that many vehicle passing the office every day.

But, what he really loved to do was to fly. In late 2005, Jerry acquired a Cessna airplane and for years he flew around the country for work and pleasure. If

my memory serves me correctly, Judge Marcotte, when he was in practice opted to fly with Jerry returning from a depo trip in Roswell, New Mexico. I will let Judge Marcotte tell you how that went.

As for me, I never flew with Jerry. It was not a concern that he was not an able pilot because he paid attention to detail in flying just as he did in the practice of law. As I stated, Jerry like to tease and was a little bit of a prankster. When I told him why I would not fly with him, he just laugh in somewhat of a devilish way.

His competitive spirit was present in everything he did including the practice of law. Jerry would leave no stone unturned in searching for facts. He was innovative. In 1989, he was representing a client that was a computer guru that led to our firm being first in town to network computers within the office to share files, send messages to each other, and to scan a portion of our files to go paperless. We moved quickly with the advancements of West Publishing in legal research with the use of disc towers and later Westlaw. It was around this time Ginny moved out of town and Jerry hired Lori Schildt, his legal assistant for the remainder of his career. Along the way with all the hard work, Jerry must have thought....What would Jimmy Buffet do?

At his suggestion, a tradition began of closing the office about 1:00 on Friday afternoon every couple of months and taking the secretaries to the patio at Superior Grill for lunch. It is very hard to go to Superior Grill and not include margaritas. It was our method of taking a break with our staff to enjoy an afternoon away from the office. Jerry recognized that the practice of law was stressful not only to the lawyer, but to the secretaries. On those afternoons, it was truly Five O'Clock Somewhere!

After Jerry passed away, I recall a Ron Raney commented he was going to miss him. Then he added: "He was one of the good guys!" He was correct on both accounts.

Your Honors, I now move to request that this Memorial Eulogy for David Gerald Tyler be duly recorded on this 9th day of November, 2023, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that copies be delivered to David Gerald Tyler's family.

Thank you, Your Honors,

Respectfully submitted,



Tommy J. Johnson, La. Bar # 7332