

**MEMORIAL FOR  
MAJOR GENERAL JAMES W. GRAVES  
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:

Jim Graves was born on August 18, 1949, in Dayton, Ohio and died on November 12, 2022.

He was the son of a service member and grew up in England, where he received a formidable education which was deeply grounded in the study of history, which was a subject he pursued with passion for his entire life. Gen. Graves graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, an institution, and City steeped in colonial history for its contributions to American founding principles. Thereafter, Jim pursued and received a Juris Doctorate Degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In important ways, Jim Graves was a student, scholar, and teacher all his life. History, American democratic principles, and military science were central to his many varied interests throughout his life.

Jim accomplished one of his many life-dreams by becoming an Air Force Pilot at age 24. He later became an accomplished fighter pilot.

Jim attained the rank of Major General and, during his service to this country, he served as a Reconnaissance Pilot, Fighter Pilot, Weapons Officer, Instructor, Flight Examiner, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, Squadron Commander, Vice Wing Commander, Mobilization Asst. to the Director of Plans and Programs to the Commander of Air University, and to the Commander of Pacific Air Forces. He culminated his career as the Asst. to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, Washington DC.



Gen. Graves' career was recognized with numerous awards and decorations, including the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal, and Distinguished Service Medal, among many, many others.

Gen. Graves was a command pilot with over 6,000 hours in civilian and military aircraft including the T 37, T 38, RF 4, A 37, A-10, and B-52, including supervisory flights in the F 16, KC 10, C 130, C 5 and C 17. Jim flew combat missions in Bosnia.

While a member of the Air Force Reserve, Gen. Graves served for more than twenty years as the Managing Partner of the law firm he founded with his father, N. Warren Graves. For twenty-one years, Jim Graves enjoyed a richly varied practice, but it was as a trial lawyer that he represented causes involving complex civil, criminal, constitutional and civil rights issues before judges, juries and appellate courts, state and federal. And it was here that he gave an articulate voice to the fundamental American legal principles that through the years had become so deeply embedded in his soul. And because of his eloquence and knowledge of these principles, Jim was a sought-after speaker and facilitator at military, government and continuing legal education events. Gen. Graves returned to active duty in the Air Force following the terrorist attacks on this nation on September 11, 2001.

In his civilian career, Gen. Graves funded an aviation services company, an aviation management company and owned and managed real estate investments.

Gen. Graves was active in his church and community. He was founding chairman and president of the Shreveport Airport Hangar Owners Association, a former vestry member and active committee member at his church and Paul Harris Fellow at the Rotary Club of Shreveport. Jim Graves actively lent his voice and his pen to local and regional civic issues.

Jim Graves was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. Jim was married for twenty-six years to Brenda. He is survived by his children Carlyn, Kristin, Landry, Lisa, Arianne, and Warren.

Gen. Jim Graves was forever a teacher, and if he was here today, he would want me to have a word with the younger lawyers in our Bar:

He would remind you all that Justice is an ideal and a lifelong endeavor.

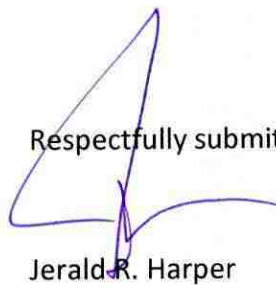
And that Freedom does not occur naturally in nature. It exists only under certain rare and controlled circumstances.

It is your job, and he would say your DUTY, to understand the principles which are conducive to freedom and justice and to apply them daily to your practice and your community endeavors.

Your Honors, I now move to request that this Memorial Eulogy for James W. Graves 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, and that copies be delivered to Jim's family.

Thank you, Your Honors.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerald R. Harper