

**MEMORIAL FOR
JOHN A. FILES
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 4, 2004
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

FILED

NOV - 4 2004


MIKE SPENCE
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

John A. Files, was born in Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas on August 14, 1918. He was the youngest of three sons of Thomas Jefferson and Huldah Tarlton Files. He graduated from the University of Texas prior to World War II. He then served in the United States Coast Guard, primarily in the Pacific Theater, from July 1, 1942, until August 28, 1945. After serving his country, he attended law school at the University of South Texas. Upon graduation from law school, he passed the Texas bar examination and moved to Shreveport in 1951 to live with his Aunt Sylvia Neild. He then married his wife, Grace Carmichael, who predeceased him. He studied Louisiana law at Centenary and passed the Louisiana Bar Examination. He maintained law offices in both Waskom, Texas and Shreveport, Louisiana engaging in the general practice of law for many years. His Shreveport law practice was located in the Lane Building for a number of years. He continued to maintain his license in both states.

He and his wife had an adopted daughter, Linda and two grandsons, James and Christopher Ellison, both of Shreveport. John Files practiced into his late 60's providing criminal defense representation for the indigent, while also maintaining a general law practice.

Mr. Files was very active in Toastmasters International and the Dale Carnegie Courses in the 1960's and 1970's. He was also a teacher of the Adult Sunday School Classes at First Presbyterian Church for over twenty years. He was also very active in the YMCA activities. He was accomplished in the karate

program under Billy Golden. Even after closing his office in Waskom, Texas, John Files still enjoyed college sports with a special love for the University of Texas football.

As the youngest child, his immediate family had predeceased him. Among his survivors are cousins Sylvia Palmer Wellborn, Patricia Neild Moulton, Helene Files Neild, and grandsons, James Ellison and Christopher Ellison of Shreveport.

Although confined to a nursing home for several years prior to his death, John Files is remembered fondly by all who know him. His friends from the First Presbyterian Sunday School, Dan Albritton and Neill Matthews, and the lawyers associated with him in practice, Sam V. Prunty and Ike Hawkins remained devoted to him until his passing.

Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr.", written in black ink.