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MEMORIAL  
 JOHN M. SHUEY  
 PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES HELD  
 IN THE  
 FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
 OCTOBER 29, 1998  
 UNDER THE AUSPICES  
 OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

**JOHN M. SHUEY** was born on August 10, 1918 in Louisville, Kentucky and died in Shreveport, Louisiana on December 11, 1997 at the age of 79. During those 79 years, Across the Book of Time, there is inscribed the life of a truly remarkable man, John M. Shuey.

John graduated from Centenary College in 1938 with an A.B. degree in economics. In 1941, he received an L.L.B. degree from LSU Law School, at the age of 22. After commencing the practice of law in Shreveport, war broke out and John joined the Army and served as special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps attached to the 13th Armored Division and spent considerable time overseas. Upon his return to Shreveport, he resumed the practice of law with the firm of Foster, Hall & Smith, which became Smith, Hunter, Risinger & Shuey and in 1954 began the firm of Shuey & Smith in a practice primarily concerned with the oil and gas industry and in estate and taxation matters. In this firm, at that time, was his longtime friend and co-worker, I. Henry Smith, Jr., who 44 years later is still in the firm.

John was the consummate attorney. Those who sat across from him at the conference table, or met him in a Court of Law, always found an attorney who represented his client in the very best of the legal tradition. He was a lawyer's lawyer. Throughout his practice, members of the legal profession would call on him, seeking his advice and counsel on complex legal problems. Why was he such a good lawyer? A number of reasons come to mind.

First, he had a bright, keen, retentive and analytical mind, with a fantastic memory.

Second, he had a quiet demeanor and sense of self assurance and personal integrity that instilled confidence in those that entrusted him with their affairs.

Third, he had a work ethic, the envy and wonder of us all. He usually arrived at the office in the morning at 7:00, while the rest of us wandered in around 9:00. After going

home for supper, it was as normal for him to come back and work at night as it was normal for the rest of us not to.

Fourth, he was a student of the law and he loved the law and loved the practice of the law. Some of us drifted into the practice of law, with no particular love for it and some of us think of it solely as a means of making a living, with no particular love for it, but not so with John. He really enjoyed the practice of law. He was happy and content when he was in his office or in a meeting or in a Court room or anywhere pursuing his chosen profession. If the law is a jealous mistress, as they say she is, she certainly was not jealous of John.

Notwithstanding all we have said above, John was not a "workaholic" in the sense that he neglected his family and failed to have a good time in other aspects of his life. On practically every weekend, he and his wife, Mary Abbie, and frequently one or more of their children and/or grandchildren and family friends went to their camp on Caddo Lake. He loved the lake, he loved his boats, he loved nature and loved to work and play at the Caddo Lake second home, so to speak.

In addition to all of this, John was a member of the Federal Energy and Louisiana and American Bar Associations, and was a former director and an active member of the Rotary Club for 29 years and, at one time or another, he:

Was an adjunct Professor of Economics at Centenary College

Was a member the Louisiana Supreme Court Bar Examining Committee from 1973 to 1978

Was an Instructor for the American Institute for Banking

Was a charter member of the Shreveport Symphony, serving on its board

Was President of the Shreveport Bar Association in 1975

Was on the Board of Directors of the Petroleum Club and served as its President in 1984

Was President of the Centenary Alumni Association

John had certain personal idiosyncrasies that added to his charm. He was of the old school, and although he condoned it in others, he did not believe in casual dress for attorneys.

He always wore a coat and tie and the tie was always a bow tie. He loved to smoke a pipe. He had 15 or 20 of them sitting on his desk. He had 2 or 3 house boats on Red River many years before people finally realized that the riverfront and Red River were great places to spend their leisure time.

In 1950, John married Mary Abbie Thigpen. What a family they had. One son, James F. Shuey, who is known as Jim, is an attorney in New Orleans, Louisiana and is in the law firm of Frilot, Partridge, Kohnke & Clements, and specializes in admiralty and maritime law, insurance defense, and personal injury suits and has two (2) children, Kate and Rachel. A second son, David, is also an attorney and is in the general litigation section of the United States Department of Justice Environmental and Natural Resources Division and though he lives in Washington, D.C., he is generally engaged in litigation with respect to environmental matters in different areas of the country. And of course, our own John M. Shuey, Jr., who is known as Jack, practices law in Shreveport in the Shuey & Smith firm and has a wide general practice with primary emphasis on oil and gas matters, bankruptcy proceedings and estate and taxation matters. He and his vivacious wife, Susan, have two (2) children, Madison and John M. Shuey, III. It is obvious from the success and the exemplary life of these three (3) sons, that the acorns did not fall far from the tree. And then to add the icing to the cake was the apple of their eye, their lovely daughter, Abby Averett, who is married to one of Shreveport's top corporate executives, Joe N. Averett, Jr., President of Crystal Oil Company. They have two (2) children, Amy and Julie.

And one could almost say another member of the family is Joan S. Porter, who was John's legal assistant for over 20 years and who was office manager of the law firm. So important was she to him, that people have, on occasions, heard him say, "if Joan retires, I'm retiring".

John was a kind and loving husband and father and a loyal friend, and fortunate, indeed, were those of us included in that group.

And now to his widow, Mary Abbie, his daughter, Abby, and his sons, Jim, David

and Jack, to his host of friends and to this Court, we submit this brief Memorial to the memory of JOHN M. SHUEY and ask that it be inscribed in the Records of the First Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted on this 29th day of October, 1998.

  
HUGH M. STEPHENS