

Memorial Resolution For

ROBERT EMERSON EATMAN, SR.

Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony
Held in the First Judicial District Court
November 3, 2011
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE BAR, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY:

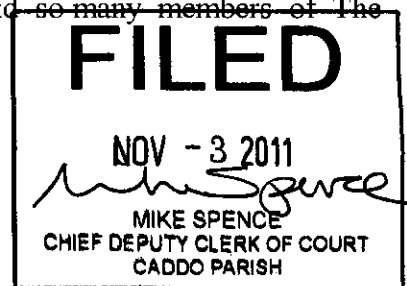
For many of us here, the practice of law is a noble profession. For a select few, the law is a calling; a passion whereby those select few retire to bed each night, pondering legal matters left unfinished. A passion wherein each morning, one arises anxious to get to the office early in order to commence work. Perhaps "work" is the wrong word to use; the labor is one of love.

Robert Emerson Eatman, Sr. was one of the select few. A succinct measure of Bob Eatman's character is illustrated by the fact that he served as an editor of the Louisiana Law Review for two years. His son, Robert, Jr., with whom he practiced law for 27 years, was not even made aware of that fact during his lifetime. A humbler, more courteous, and better self-disciplined man never graced the halls of justice.

Born in 1924, the son of an attorney, Bob Eatman moved to Shreveport at the age of six, following the death of his father. He resided with his mother, a school teacher, and an older brother in the Madison Park area, which at the time was in the country. Interestingly, his last law office was located in Madison Park. He attended Creswell Elementary School and Byrd High School. For many years, he practiced law just a block away from Byrd. He was a man who put down his roots and never strayed very far therefrom.

While attending Byrd High School, he played drums in the school band, and was a member of Purple Jacket and the Debate Club. He excelled in school, and graduated from Centenary College in 1944. Following graduation, he joined the United States Navy, served in the Pacific Theater as a radioman, and saw action during the Okinawa campaign.

After the war, Bob Eatman continued his education, as did so many members of The



Greatest Generation. He enrolled in the LSU Law School, where he became a top student in a class comprised of some of the best lawyers who have ever practiced in Shreveport. He was elected to The Order of the Coif, the highest honor which may be bestowed upon a law student. While attending LSU Law School, Bob Eatman rubbed elbows with iconic faculty members such as Paul M. Hebert and Robert Lee Tullis. One of his roommates was Gov. Edwin Edwards. He served for two years on the editorial staff of the Louisiana Law Review, along with his good friend Roland Achee. However, the most important elbow Bob Eatman rubbed during his law school years was that of his wife, Evelyn Marcom Eatman, whom he met on a blind date.

Bob and Evelyn Eatman were married in 1950, and remained together for 50 years. During that time, they spent a total of four nights apart from each other. They raised two sons, Robert Emerson Eatman, Jr. and John David Eatman.

Bob Eatman was ordained as a deacon at Highland Baptist Church, and remained very active there until its merger with First Baptist Church, where he continued to be active. The family's social life revolved around their church.

As a young lawyer, Bob Eatman's practice was varied. At one time, he was with the leading plaintiff's firm of Booth, Lockard. He handled a wide range of legal matters, including product liability and motor vehicle cases, successions, and also defended The City of Shreveport. At different times, Bob Eatman practiced with two lawyers who later became bankruptcy judges, the Hon. Leroy Smallenberger, and the Hon. Henley Hunter.

Ultimately, Bob Eatman's practice developed into one where he would become known as "The Dean of Collections" among Shreveport lawyers. He ventured into bankruptcy law in the days before the enactment of the Bankruptcy Code in 1978. He represented the U.S. Trustee and debtors, but mostly he represented creditors, the most important of which was the Credit Bureau. Judge Hunter states that Bob Eatman was a "visionary in the management of a law firm engaged in a volume practice". Robert Jr. tells of his first court appearance during the late 1970's, when he was tasked to confirm 42 defaults. In the days before word processors, Bob Eatman designed many forms and procedures which allowed his office to generate mass quantities of documents, with a

relatively small staff. During his naval career, he had become proficient in the use of an abacus. In his law practice, he kept one on his desk, and used it for mathematical calculations.

Bob Eatman lived by several creeds. Never speak ill of another attorney. Whatever you do, do it well. Be humble, courteous, and treat people with respect. To Bob Eatman, a legal matter was simply a matter of business; it was never personal.

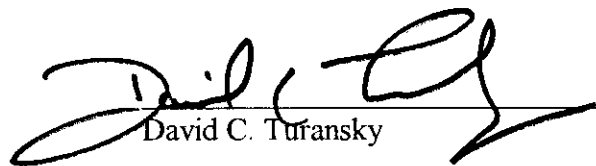
Robert Eatman was a member of the East Shreveport Rotary Club, holding a number of offices over the course of his membership, including the Presidency. He served as President of the Shreveport Bar Association in 1991. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Centenary College, and could often be found eating at Strawn's, next to campus.

In later years, Bob and Evelyn Eatman traveled extensively. When Evelyn fell ill, he remained faithfully at her side. Though he continued to practice law until his retirement in 2004, he was never the same after Evelyn's death.

In compiling this, I have had the pleasure of speaking with a number of lawyers who knew Bob Eatman, who practiced with him, or called him friend. To a man, their comments were along the lines of: "Always a gentlemen. Never said ill of anyone. Calm, quiet, introspective, very controlled. Never saw him angry. Thorough and methodical. Concise and not flamboyant."

It is a distinct honor to present this Memorial Resolution for Robert Emerson Eatman, Sr, and to move that it be made part of the permanent records of The First Judicial District Court, and that copies hereof be delivered to Bob's family and forwarded to The Supreme Court of Louisiana for recordation.

Respectfully submitted on this 3rd day of November, 2011 in Shreveport, Louisiana.


David C. Tufansky