

**MEMORIAL FOR  
SAMUEL W. CAVERLEE  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
NOVEMBER 3, 2022  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

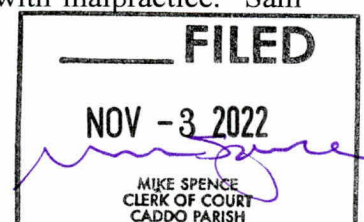
Your Honors, family, friends, and fellow members of the bar,

Samuel William Caverlee was born on June 19, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois to Robert John and Constance McReynolds Caverlee. He was the second of four brothers and, following his father's death when he was five, the Caverlee family moved to Monroe, Louisiana. Sam died peacefully at home in Shreveport on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Sam was a 1963 graduate of Neville High School, where he was Student Body President and a member of the 1963 Neville Tigers State Championship basketball team. Of those two high school accomplishments, I expect he was most proud of his role on the basketball team about which he talked incessantly. As Student Body President, he worked with the Monroe Zoo to have its live tiger, Shasta, attend school pep rallies. Other than Mike the Tiger, Shasta is believed to be the only live tiger to serve as a mascot in this country. Following high school, Sam attended Tulane University and received his undergraduate degree from LSU while attending LSU Law School. Prior to the first year of law school, Sam and Ellen Buchanan Gardner were married on August 12, 1967. Ellen worked as a French teacher at Baker Junior High School, helping put Sam through law school. While in law school, Sam was a member of the Louisiana Law Review.

After graduation from law school and service in the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves, Sam joined the firm of Johnston, Johnston & Thornton and later was associated with Wilkinson, Carmody & Peatross. He finally found his work home at Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway, where he practiced law until his retirement in 2015. He served as Managing Partner for more than 10 years. At Cook Yancey, Sam was a beloved friend to all – the staff, its lawyers (especially the young lawyers for many of whom he served as mentor as well as friend), the parking lot attendant, and everyone else who was fortunate enough to come in contact with him.

Sam was an accomplished trial lawyer. There is no other way to put it except to say that juries loved Sam. In one case, he defended a client who was charged with malpractice. Sam



admitted that an error had been made by his client, but contended that the error caused no loss. The jury returned a defense verdict in seven minutes. This stands as a record in the annals of Caddo Parish legal history. He was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, was listed in Best Lawyers in America, and in 2013 was named Shreveport Defense Lawyer of the year. The Shreveport Bar Association honored him in 2014 with the professionalism award and, on that occasion, SBA President, Larry Pettiette, noted, "that Sam Caverlee is Peter Pan. He never grows old and always believes." Even on occasions when Sam prevailed in difficult, hard-fought trials, it was not uncommon for opposing counsel to compliment him on the way in which he conducted himself – he couldn't have been nicer in the process.

Sam served as mentor to young attorneys at Cook Yancey, as well as other young attorneys. On an occasion in the late 1970s, Sam was participating in a deposition with three other attorneys, two of whom were older and experienced and one young attorney who was sent to take the deposition in a difficult lawsuit with no instructions and little experience. The young attorney would ask a question and be met with an objection as to the form of every question. The young lawyer was getting frustrated. Although on the other side in the case, during a break Sam took the young lawyer aside and told him he was entitled to have his questions answered, to rephrase his questions if appropriate, but to insist on an answer subject to the objection of opposing counsel. It worked and the young lawyer was able to regain his composure and complete the deposition without further embarrassment. This story was told by that young lawyer who is now himself an older, seasoned attorney who remembers Sam with affection.

In addition to his active trial practice, Sam served the community as a member of the Caddo Parish School Board and was a devoted member of First Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for more than 30 years. In addition to holding leadership roles in the church, including Chairman of the Administrative Board, he served communion for homebound residents of The Glen retirement system. He was a man of great faith and boundless energy.

He always had a smile on his face and was willing to help anyone, anywhere, at any time. Sam's energy had no equal and his family and friends marveled at how he could work a room full of people and turn those who did not know him into instant friends. Sam had a gentle spirit and an ability to make people comfortable with him even on first meeting him. Sam enjoyed running and, later, walking with his friends; reading and attending book reviews; visiting local museums each month; taking Ruston peaches to his friends and family; watching his favorite team, the

Chicago Cubs; and enjoying college basketball, especially the Duke Blue Devils, the alma mater of his son, James. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with Ellen and his beloved sons and their families.

The three things that were vital to Sam were his faith, his family, and his profession. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, attorney, friend to all, and above all, a devoted Christian man. Sam treasured the many lifelong friends he made over the years and, in turn, his friends treasured their relationship with him.

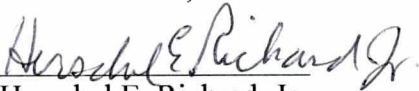
Sam is survived by his wife, Ellen; his sons, John Gardner Caverlee, an accomplished business lawyer in Dallas; and Dr. James Buchanan Caverlee, a computer science professor at Texas A&M University; his daughters-in-law, Amy and Sherry; his five grandchildren Will, Thomas, Luke, Eva, and Zoe who knew and loved him as Sampa; his brothers, Bob (Margaret) of Dallas, Texas, Jim (Janis) of Marietta, Georgia, and Bill Caverlee of Monroe, Louisiana. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Cres Gardner and wife Sharon of Shreveport.

Your Honors, I now move that this Memorial Eulogy for Samuel William Caverlee be duly recorded on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2022, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and it be spread upon the minutes and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that copies be delivered to Mr. Caverlee's family.

Thank you, Your Honors,

Respectfully submitted,

J. William Fleming  
Francis M. Gowen  
William Robert McKenzie  
Herschel E. Richard, Jr.

By:   
Herschel E. Richard, Jr.,  
For the Memorial Eulogy Committee