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In Memoriam

THOMAS M. COMEGYS, JR.

Presented at the memorial exercises held before
the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish,
Louisiana, on September 2, 1969.

Thomas McLloyd Comegys, Jr., died on June 10, 1969, following a lengthy illness. His loss is grieved by his family, friends and the profession in which he served. Affectionately known to most of us as "Ike", he was respected by his fellow lawyers.

The son of Dr. T. M. and May Pierson Comegys, he was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on February 23, 1904, where he received his early education in the public schools. He attended Centenary College, Washington & Lee, Louisiana State University and Tulane. He was actively engaged in the practice of law for forty years, most of that time in private practice. He was chief counsel for the Office of Price Stabilization during the Truman Administration. He was a member of the Shreveport, Louisiana and American Bar Associations. He served on the Board of the National Association of Claimants' Compensation Attorney's and was invited to lecture on workmen's compensation at the University of Colorado.

Ike's chief interest in public life, outside of his profession, was in the field of mental health. He was a former president of the Caddo-Bossier Branch of the Louisiana Association for Mental Health and he was among those who successfully labored for the establishment of the Shreveport Mental Health Center on North Hearne Avenue. As an Elk, he gave his time and energy to the furtherance of that organizations many benevolent programs.

An avid outdoorsman, Ike was one of the organizers and the first president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. While his health permitted he was an enthusiastic golfer and a member of the Shreveport and Palmetto Country Clubs. He was one of the few members of golf's Hole-In-One Club.

He gladly gave his advice and encouragement to young lawyers who were just starting out. As a lawyer, Ike Comegys always thought of his client's best interest without regard to their ability to pay a fee. There were times when clients who were obviously able to pay, sought to take advantage of his generosity. On one such occasion Ike's law partners, with the best of intentions and on Ike's behalf, sued to collect a fee Ike had earned. Once again Ike became his debtor's advocate and insisted the suit be dismissed.

A number of years ago after considerable effort and investigation the police arrested several persons who were accused of perpetrating a series of crimes in the city. Without regard to public opinion he courageously and successfully defended those accused. In more recent years he was appointed by the court to defend, without any hope of remuneration, a man charged with murder. It is difficult for laymen to appreciate the hardship imposed upon the sole practitioner by such an appointment. Nevertheless he worked tirelessly on the defendant's behalf. The trial alone lasted eight days and by that standard you may speculate on the many, many hours spent in investigation and research not only for the trial but through the appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

A member of St. Marks Episcopal church, he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Juanita Draiss Comegys, his daughters, Mrs. Lynn Harmon and Mrs. William Webb, his brother, Dr. D. P. Comegys, and his sisters, Mrs. Jan Garber, Mrs. Ted Foulds and Miss Kathleen Comegys.

As an officer of the Court he faithfully and skillfully discharged his duty to his clients and to the judicial system in which he served. All who knew him will miss his presence and remember him with affection.

Respectfully Submitted
by the Committee,



Val E. Irion



J. Phillip Goode, Sr.



John M. Brown