

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM  
LOUIS LEFTWICH, JR., (1910-1960)

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF  
THE NASHVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION:

Louis Leftwich, Jr., was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1910. He was born to a distinguished heritage in the Old South. His grandfather Leftwich had been a merchant, operating a general store in Lafayette, Tennessee, and his father, Louis Leftwich, Sr., was an outstanding member of our Bar of former years, serving this Association as its President and also as President of the Tennessee Bar Association. His mother's father, Sol Frankland, was a member of the Company of Captain Charles Douglas, of Sumner County, Tennessee, First Tennessee Regiment of the Army of the Confederate States, the first of many Tennessee Regiments to be formed as Volunteers flocked to the Stars and Bars to meet the northern invaders.

Within that heritage, the life stream of commerce and law in Tennessee was a characteristic almost uniquely associated with those earlier, more graceful days of a way of life that all but vanished, as the South was re-constructed. This was a tradition within a tradition of kindness toward others, respect for others, responsibility for the welfare of others, and, indeed, generosity for others,- traits that were somehow magnified in lives that had their roots deep in that land of legend and song that we call the South.

Louis' father was known for his capability as a lawyer and was respected for his integrity, but if he was known for any one thing above all other things, we would say it was for the fact that he was always and everywhere and under all circumstances a gentleman.

Louis Leftwich, Jr., was a fit son of his father, indeed a gentleman, and more than that, a Southern Gentleman.

The phrase is hackneyed somewhat: Movies and television and the swifter pace of the life we lead today has tarnished it somewhat, but Louis Leftwich, Jr., truly was a Southern Gentleman. Southern in the sense that although he loved humor, told a good story and loved to hear a good story, he detested commonness. His humor was a clean humor. He was a Southern Gentleman in that he did not simply treat one with courtesy, but always with respect and in such fashion to honor him.

Your Committee knew him intimately and were his kinfolk in the fashion that only law partners and other lawyers can be kinsmen. He spoke freely - without restraint before us, and yet we never heard him mention a woman's name except that she might be honored. He was a Southern Gentleman in that he put the welfare of others, not simply on a level equaling his own, but ahead of his own; Southern in his generosity, not simply by being generous but by being unobtrusively and quietly generous, giving his alms in secret.

Louis Leftwich, Jr. graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1931, and graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1934, and he brought that rich family tradition with him to the practice of our profession. He dedicated his talents and his abilities, first, to his clients, but never to the exclusion of needs of our large community. He was a person in whom confidence could be placed, and he was a keeper of those confidences, faithful to the trust of clients and friends alike.

He practiced law with Walter Raymond Denney all of his lawyer's life, first in his father's firm, Leftwich and Denney, until the reorganization of that firm with Mr. Fyke Farmer and Mr. Denney after his father's death. A firm was later formed between Raymond Denney, Louis Leftwich, Jr., and S. McP. Glasgow, Jr., and his firm was with Raymond

Denney and Z. T. Osborn, Jr., at the time of his death.

He was married to Maurine Potlitzer June 19, 1940, and they went away to serve together as husbands and wives did in those days, in the Armed Forces of the United States. He renamed his wife "Suzy" after their marriage, and the force of his love for her was such that all of us and her own family now know her as Suzy and not as Maurine. Mrs. Leftwich and their daughter, Susan Leftwich, survive, as does his mother, Mrs. Louis Leftwich, Senior.

We shall not undertake to list here his many services to our community and, indeed, our nation, and we shall not undertake to list the many honors bestowed upon him in appreciation of those services. Still less shall we set ourselves to speak of the greatness of our loss at his passing. He would not have wanted that. It would, to him, seem somehow out of place, not in keeping with the manner in which his people before him tried to live, nor of the manner in which he lived.

We cannot in words describe a good and useful, a generous and gentle life, and we cannot in words describe the ocean breadth of a void that we feel when we remember him and mourn his death.

Lie light the sod above thee,  
Our friend of better days,  
None knew thee, but to love thee,  
None named thee, but to praise.

Mr. President and Members of the Association, in consideration of these premises, it should be:

RESOLVED, that the Officers and Membership of the Nashville Bar Association here assembled hereby express their appreciation for the life of Louis Leftwich, Jr., and their sorrow and deep and abiding sense of loss at his death, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that these Resolutions be permanently engrossed upon the records of the Nashville Bar Association, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Secretary of the Nashville Bar Association be authorized and directed to furnish a duly certified copy of these Resolutions to Mrs. Louis Leftwich, Jr.

W. Raymond Denney,  
Chairman

I. R. Schulman,

Jay G. Stephenson,

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

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