

JACK NORMAN, SR.
1905 - 1995

We recognize a remarkable man and a remarkable career. This man would scoff at our pretensions of capturing him and his career in a few words, for he was a man possessed of intellect and an unquenchable curiosity about law, politics, life, people and relationships, not only in his own community, but throughout the world. He gave a bravo performance throughout his career in the many roles he occupied - husband, father, leader of the Shrine, power broker and lawyer. Yes, Mr. Norman would scoff at our pretensions, but he would applaud our efforts, nevertheless.

Jack Norman and four other children were born to Charles and Bertha Norman in a part of Nashville known as Varmint Town and was raised in another part of town sometimes called Woodbine, other times Flatrock.

His earliest hero was a lawyer who represented his father against a powerful railroad and with such a role model, Mr. Norman's career path was determined. He graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1925 and in that same period commenced a relationship with a lovely lady named Carrie, who became wife, companion, compass, boss, and mother to Jack, Bob, Carolyn, Seth, and Julian.

Jack Norman began his practice of law in the Exchange Building and, no surprise to those who knew him, his first case involved the defense of a restaurant cook charged with murder. As those who knew him could predict, he won an acquittal for the cook and, much to his surprise, won a Stutz Bearcat as a fee for himself. Thus was launched

a 40 year career in which this legal titan defended, and, on occasion, prosecuted, the rich and famous and the poor and downtrodden.

Jack Norman embraced a long and fruitful life as a world traveler, king maker in local, state and national politics, Grand Potentate of Al Menah Shrine and founder of Al Menah Shrine Circus. Most touching about Mr. Norman, however, was his treatment of individuals. He could walk with presidents, and did, and not lose the common touch. He could enjoy all people, but none so much as to lose his balance.

Even though he was a masterful player in many roles, he would undoubtedly claim as most important his roles as a family man and as a defender of those who needed him to stand between them and the might of governments. Jack Norman exalted in his family, and he knew and worshipped God in a way that was personal, private and real.

In thinking of Jack Norman, however, one always returns to his role as an advocate. It was in that role that he became a colossus. When he got into a battle, he gave every last measure of his strength, courage and awesome presence. He could marshall the facts and present the evidence in a way that would capture the attention of anyone within the sound of his voice and in a way that would be the envy of any hollywood director, and he would relate to a jury the way a conductor relates to a symphony. Every case was a matter of life or death. He asked no quarter of his adversaries and gave none. In summations, he pounded his legal enemies with blunt instruments and violated their bodies with rapier thrusts.

Even his opponents, however, through their pain, realized that while he struck hard blows, he never struck foul ones. Moreover, they knew that when the battle was over, Jack Norman would host a martini with them and applaud their puny efforts.

Throughout his illustrious career, Jack Norman never forgot who he was and where he came from. He never failed to take the time to smell the roses, to enjoy a good cigar and the companionship of family and friends. Frequently, Mr. Norman would write to congratulate a colleague on what he considered a competent job.

And, finally, in the most difficult decision for anyone who has dared to dream of, and achieve, glorious triumphs, he knew when to leave the stage and how to leave it with the dignity and grace that marked his long career.

RESOLUTION

NOW, BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED at this official session of the Davidson County Chancery Court held at 11:00 a.m. on the 16th day of November, 1995.

1. That it is fair and proper for his colleagues to meet and celebrate the life and career of Jack Norman, Sr.;

2. That we acknowledge our debt to this man who strode the legal world like a colossus, for his legendary battles in court and out, for his friendship, for his encouragement to those who sought to follow his example, for his commitment to the proposition that a man with all of his faculties belongs in the fight, and for the strength, grace and dignity with which he lived his life and with which he left it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be entered upon the permanent Memorial Role of this Association, and that a copy be forwarded to his children, Jack, Bob, Carolyn, Seth and Julian.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

By: James F. Neal
James F. Neal, Chairman

By: Herbert R. Rich
Herbert R. Rich

By: Charles L. Cornelius, Jr.
Charles L. Cornelius, Jr.

By: John T. Conners, Jr.
John T. Conners, Jr.