



Judge Clarence Phillips “Phil” Shoffner

Judge Clarence Phillips “Phil” Shoffner of Searcy died February 14, 2008, at the age of 65. He graduated from the University of Central Arkansas and earned a graduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law. He taught school in Paris, Arkansas, Rivercrest High School in Wilson, Sylvan Hills High School in North Little Rock, Monticello High School and Searcy High School. Judge Shoffner practiced law in Searcy for many years. He served as city attorney in Beebe, city judge in McRae, Higginson and Bradford, Searcy municipal judge, and was serving as the White County district judge at the time of his death. He was a longtime member of the Arkansas Bar Association where he served on numerous committees and sections. He was a member of the White County and Pulaski County Bar Associations. He is survived by his wife, Margo; children, Martin, Corbitt, and Brittany; and four grandchildren.

Jack D. Files

Jack D. Files of North Little Rock died February 29, 2008, at the age of 75. After serving in the United States Navy during the Korean War, he returned to Arkansas where he received a BA and a JD from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. His interest in politics began during his college years, according to an obituary in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. During his career he served as aid to Governor

Orval Faubus, and administrative assistant to Congressman Wilbur D. Mills, and a legislative assistant to Senator William J. Fullbright. After a run for Congress, he entered private practice, served a term as Pulaski County attorney, and retired from Gary Eubanks and Associates at the age of 70. He was a member of the Arkansas Bar Association. He is survived by his wife Jo Anne Schaefer Files; three sons, Jonathan, Joel, and Jackson; and one daughter, Jana.

John T. Haley

John T. Haley of Warren died January 15, 2008, at the age of 90. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He graduated from Arkansas A & M, Hendrix College and George Washington University. He practiced law in Warren, joining Aubert Martin in 1948 to form the law firm of Martin and Haley. At his retirement he was of counsel to the firm of Haley, Claycomb, Roper and Anderson. He was a member of the Arkansas Bar Association. He served as city attorney for the City of Warren from 1948 to 1986. He is survived by his wife, Ann Crow Haley.

Virginia Onstead Tackett

Virginia Onstead Tackett of Eureka Springs died January 14, 2008, at the age of 88. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist College and earned a juris doctorate from the UALR School of Law. She was an attorney in the Right of Way Division of the Arkansas State Highway Department. She served as the president of the Arkansas

Women Lawyers Association and in that capacity played a key leadership role in obtaining ratification of the equal rights amendment in Arkansas, according to an obituary in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Jon Warren Coleman

Jon Warren Coleman of Jonesboro died January 20, 2008, at the age of 32. A native and life-long resident of Jonesboro, Jon was an attorney with Oldham & Coleman, PLLC in Jonesboro. He was a graduate of Crowley’s Ridge Academy, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas School of Law. He was a member of the Arkansas Bar Association. He is survived by his mother Jan Coleman; stepfather Ron McCoy; and brother Kyle Coleman.

Billie Franklin Jennings

Billie Franklin Jennings of Magnolia died March 2, 2008, at the age of 66. He was a Vietnam veteran, receiving two Bronze Stars, including one for valor, a Purple Heart and numerous Korean and Vietnam medals for service as an officer in the Navy Phoenix Program’s initial operations. He received his bachelor’s degree from Southern Arkansas University and his doctorate in jurisprudence from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He practiced law for more than thirty years in Magnolia, serving as both prosecutor and defense counsel. He was a member of the Arkansas Bar Association. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Wilkerson Jennings; and three daughters, Susan Jennings, Leslie Jennings, and Elisa Jennings Sullivan.

William Lewis Ford

William Lewis Ford of Hot Springs Village died March 7, 2008, at the age of 64. He received a Master’s Degree in math and physics from the University of Maryland. He served in the United States Air Force and then graduated from the UALR School of Law. He operated the Garland Abstract and Title Company and the Village Law Offices. He was a member of the Arkansas Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He is survived by his wife, Patricia “Pat” Ford, and daughter, Hayley Malone.