



## Judge Denald A. "Denny" Beslin

October 29, 2017

Judge Denald A. "Denny" Beslin

Rayne--A mass of Christian burial will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 11:00 am at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne to celebrate the life of Judge Denald A. "Denny" Beslin, 88, who died peacefully at his home on October 29, 2017 surrounded by his loving wife and family. Fr. Kevin Bordelon, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, will be officiating for the services. Fr. Richard Wagner, pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church will concelebrate the Mass assisted by Deacon Tim Ledet. Visitation will be held on Monday, October 30th from 1:00 until 8:00 pm and on Tuesday, October 31st from 8:00 am until the time of service. A rosary led by the Knights of Columbus and Court Rayne Catholic Daughters will be recited at 6:30 pm on Monday.

Judge Beslin was born in Rayne, Louisiana on October 17, 1929 at the home of his parents, Walter J. and Fabiola Halphen Beslin, just one block from Rayne City Court where he presided as City Court Judge for 32 years. His years of judicial service along with the four years he served as a member of the Rayne Board of Aldermen made Judge Beslin the longest serving public official in the City of Rayne. Judge Beslin is survived by his wife of 65 years, the former Claire Arceneaux. He is also survived by his children Anne B. Credeur and husband Stephen Credeur of Lafayette, Denise B. Trahan and

husband John W. Trahan of Rayne, Jeanne B. Walk and husband Frank "Woody" Walk, Jr. of New Orleans, Matthew G. Beslin and wife Christine Higginbotham Beslin of Rayne, Judge Marie Elise "M'Elise" B. Trahan and husband Judge John D. Trahan of Crowley, John Jude Beslin and wife Cynthia Bullock Beslin of Rayne, Luke A. Beslin and wife Dr. Charina "Chary" Tan Beslin of Rayne and daughter-in-law Renee Buller Beslin of Rayne. He is also survived by his 13 grandchildren Nicole Credeur, John William "Bill" Trahan, Jr., Jennifer Beslin Richard, Anthony J. Beslin, Dr. Claire Trahan Ronkartz, Mark Frederick "Rick" Beslin II, Dr. Daniel Beslin Walk, Adrienne Trahan Catalano, Travis J. Beslin, Andre' P. Trahan, Caroline E. Beslin, Margaret E. Beslin and Mary Frances Beslin. He is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren Alec Arceneaux, Ainsley Trahan, Anna Trahan, Dallas Beslin, Addi Beslin, Avery Beslin, Charlotte Richard, Elizabeth Richard, Amie Beslin, Ty Beslin, Beau-Michael Beslin, Allie Ronkartz and Catherine Ronkartz. Judge Beslin is also survived by his sister-in-law Anna Joyce Arceneaux, his niece Wendy Hebert Holmetoft, longtime family friend Bertha Jones and trusted legal secretary of 37 years Margaret Bergeron.

He was preceded in death by his son Mark Frederick Beslin, his parents Walter J. and Fabiola Halphen Beslin, his in-laws Ulysse J. and Maxime Hebert Arceneaux and his brothers-in-law Ivan J. Arceneaux and Antoine Hebert III.

Judge Beslin was a devout Catholic and lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne. In his youth he was an altar server to Monsignor Hubert Lerschen, and in his adult life he served as a lector and as a Trustee for the Parish Council. He faithfully supported St. Joseph's as well as Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. Judge Beslin attended St. Joseph Seminary at St. Benedict, Louisiana for one year before returning to complete his high school studies at St. Joseph High School in Rayne. He received his B. A. degree from Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana

Lafayette), and obtained his Juris Doctorate at Loyola University Law School in 1952. While at SLI, he was a member of Blue Key Honor Society and a member and officer of the National Honor Society. He was honored with inclusion in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities". He was president of the Pre-law Fraternity at SLI and also served as an officer in Pi Gamma Mu social studies honor society. During the time he studied at Loyola Law School, he was a member of the Law Review and also served on the Student Council.

He returned to Rayne in 1952 and entered the practice of law with Judge James C. Arceneaux in the law firm of Arceneaux & Beslin, where he practiced for the next thirteen years. In 1958 he was elected to serve as a member of the Rayne Board of Aldermen and Mayor Pro Tem, serving until 1962, during the administration of Mayor Marcus D. Bordelon. Following the death of Judge Arceneaux in 1965, he was appointed to complete the unexpired term of office as City Judge of the City Court of Rayne. He was elected to an additional five full terms, serving a total of 32 years. Judge Beslin also established a partnership with Charles W. Chappuis in 1965 under the firm name of Chappuis & Beslin. He later formed the partnership of Beslin & Cunningham with James M. Cunningham III, and practiced there until his retirement in 2006. He was joined in the practice of law by two of his children, M'elise who practiced with him from 1987 to 1999, and Luke, who has been with the firm since 1997. By appointment of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, Judge Beslin served as Judge Ad Hoc on the Fifteenth Judicial District Court in all three parishes, Acadia, Lafayette and Vermilion. The Supreme Court also appointed him to serve as Judge Ad Hoc of the Breaux Bridge City Court for a period of six months. Judge Beslin was an active member of the community, having held all offices, including the presidency, of the Rayne Lions Club. He was also a member of Acadian Council #1897 of the Knights of Columbus where he served as Grand Knight, and a member of the Fourth

Degree Knights of Columbus. In 1977 he was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Rayne Frog Festival. Judge Beslin was a member and past president of the Acadia Parish Bar Association, a member of the Fifteenth Judicial District Bar Association, a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, a member and past president of the Louisiana City Judges' Association, a member and past president of the Louisiana Juvenile Court Judges' Association and a member and past District Governor of the American Judges Association and a member of the House of Delegates of the American Judges Association. In 2012 Judge Beslin was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Evangeline Area Council Boys Scouts of America. That same year he was recognized by the Louisiana State Bar Association as a 60 year member.

Judge Beslin was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing golf with his sons. More important than any of his civic or professional accomplishments, Judge Beslin was an extraordinarily devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend. The family would like to thank his wonderful caregivers during the last year of his life and the staff at Louisiana Hospice and Palliative Care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Rayne Catholic Elementary, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne or Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Rayne.

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.gossenfuneralhome.net](http://www.gossenfuneralhome.net)

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gossen Funeral Home Inc.  
504 N. Polk Street  
Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-3141  
info@gossenfuneralhome.net  
<http://gossenfh.funeralplan2.com/>

## Rosary

OCT **30**. 6:30 PM (CT)

Gossen Funeral Home Inc.  
504 N. Polk Street  
Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-3141  
info@gossenfuneralhome.net  
<http://gossenfh.funeralplan2.com/>

## Visitation

OCT **31**. 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Gossen Funeral Home Inc.  
504 N. Polk Street  
Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-3141  
info@gossenfuneralhome.net  
<http://gossenfh.funeralplan2.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ I was Charles Secretary when Judge Beslin and Charles Chappuis merged. Judge Beslin broke the news to me when his secretary was in a very serious wreck—her name was Joy—Judge Beslin was frustrated many times coming back from city court. He could tell who was telling the truth and who wasn't. He had a happy side too. It was an honor to work in his office. He loved his wife and children. I will be in prayer for them to carry on in the lords strength and mercy as Judge Beslin believed and relied on Jesus

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**johnnie prather olinger** - November 06, 2017 at 09:17 PM



“ Dear "Aunt Claire",

*Tessie & I have many kind memories of "Uncle Denny", of his hospitality, graciousness throughout the years. He is warmheartedly remembered.*

*Peter & Tessie*

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**Peter Kau** - October 31, 2017 at 10:16 PM

LJ

“ Dear Beslins: Please accept our heartfelt sympathy at the death of Judge Beslin. He was a wonderful addition to the Rayne community, and he will be sorely missed. Love and prayers from the Jankowers (Marilyn Jankower; Steve, Laura & Melanie Jankower; Kenneth & Laurie Jankower James; Jason & Ashley Jankower Dugas)

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**Laurie James** - October 31, 2017 at 05:42 PM

AP

“ To the Belsin Family, please accept our most heartfelt sympathies.

*My Dear Friend Melise.... just know, that the bond between a daughter and their Dad is profound and everlasting. I will continue to keep you and yours in prayer at this difficult time. Remember, good memories, thoughts, hopes and dreams heal and live on in us.*



*Leonard and Antoinette Pete and Family*

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**Antoinette Pete** - October 31, 2017 at 12:38 PM

HB

“ With sincere condolences to the Beslin family.

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**Henri Billon** - October 31, 2017 at 09:23 AM

BF

“ "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

*~Thomas Campbell*



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**Brenda Boudreaux Francis** - October 30, 2017 at 09:14 PM

DC

“ To the family of the most Honorable Judge, our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. There are not enough words to describe how amazing, kind and humble this man was, unique and one of kind is truly an understatement. He will be missed by all.  
*Rest In Peace Judge*



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**Daphne Comeaux** - October 30, 2017 at 07:59 PM

KS

“ We want to send our deepest sympathies from our family to yours, and wish we could visit to pay our respects in person, but we are unable to at this time. We do have fond memories of times gone by, when we would all get together, and your family will always hold a special place in our hearts.

*Kenneth, & Connie Sanislo, and Mom Marie Mimnaugh*

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**Kenneth Sanislo** - October 30, 2017 at 07:15 PM

BC

“ *Jeanne & M'Elise and the Beslin Family:*  
*It was with sadness when Nancy and I read of the death of the honorable Judge Beslin. Although I didn't know him personally, I always admired him from afar when I read of the things he did for the community of Rayne, his church, and for his devotion to family.*



*"Surely he will dwell in the House of the Lord forever!"*

*Butch and Nancy Cantey*

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**Butch Cantey** - October 30, 2017 at 10:55 AM

BC

“ *My sympathies to the entire Beslin family.*

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**Brian David Constantin** - October 30, 2017 at 10:49 AM

RG

“ Rhonda Guidry lit a candle in memory of Judge Denald A. "Denny" Beslin



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**Rhonda Guidry** - October 30, 2017 at 10:44 AM

MP

*My sincere condolences to the family of Judge Beslin! I use to live 2 blocks west of Judge Beslin and family when I was growing up in Rayne. I have always admired him for his honesty, friendliness and especially for all the good things he contributed to Rayne and the judicial system. He will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace!*

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**Michael J. Perrodin** - October 30, 2017 at 03:28 PM

AW

*Please know that, although I am unable to attend Mr. Denny's service, my prayers are with you, Ms. Claire, and with all your wonderful family. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him and by all those Rayne lives he touched in some special way through his contributions to his profession, his church, and his community. Angela Faulk Wall*

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**Angela Wall** - October 30, 2017 at 04:23 PM

SF

*I am so sorry to hear of Judge Beslin's death. I, along with my siblings, have fond memories of the friendship that my family had with all of you in our earlier years. Please know that I am remembering all of you in prayer during this time of sorrow. Susan Petitjean Flores (Dr. Elmo Petitjean's family)*

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**susan flores** - November 01, 2017 at 05:47 PM