



Judge Ann Baker

June 1, 1933 - December 16, 2013

Hon. Ann Pier Baker Hon. Ann Pier Baker was born on June 1, 1933 in Crockett, Texas. Judge Baker passed away peacefully in Huntsville on December 11, 2013. Ann was raised in Houston, where she graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Rice University, in 1954. Thereafter, she attended law school at the University of Texas, where she was one of only six women in her law school class. She received her law degree in 1957. From 1957 until 1970, she practiced law in Houston. She met her future husband, Donald Baker, when he was her opposing counsel in a Houston courtroom. They married in 1958 and had two children, Clifton Allen and Catherine Ann. The family moved to Don's childhood home of Huntsville, following the passing of Don's father, Joseph C. Baker. Ann fell in love with Huntsville and Walker County. She raised her family in Huntsville and lived there for the rest of her life. Ann found her joy in working and loved the law. In 1972, she joined the faculty of the Criminal Justice Department at Sam Houston State University. She loved teaching and loved watching her former students thrive in their law enforcement careers. In August 1981, Ann was selected to fill the vacancy on the bench of the Walker County Court at Law. She was one of the first women judges in East Texas. Judge Baker particularly enjoyed family law and juvenile law, where she felt that she made a difference helping people solve their problems. She was elected and re-elected three times and served as County Court at Law judge until 1995. Judge Baker continued to teach while working

full time as a judge, as an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice, until 1997. In recognition of her contribution to the SHSU Criminal Justice Department, she received the 1993 Criminal Justice Alumni Distinguished Service Award. She especially treasured this award because, as she said, "it came from the kids." Both before and during retirement, Judge Baker served on many committees and organizations, including the Advisory Board, Huntsville-At-Risk-Youth Art Project, SHSU Continuing Education; Advisory Board, Gibbs Elementary School; Chairperson, Juvenile Board Walker County; Advisory Board-Challenge Program, HISD; SHSU University Women; Huntsville Chapter of the Women's Forum, the Women's Christian Club; Walker County Fair Association-Lifetime Member; the Rotary Club; and others. She particularly enjoyed her many years of service as a Panhellenic Rush Consultant during sorority rush at SHSU. October 1, 2007 was declared "Judge Ann P. Baker Day" in Huntsville, in recognition of her service on the bench and as a professor. Beyond her many accomplishments as a lawyer, judge, professor and supporting the community, Ann was most proud of her family. She loved time with her children and grandchildren and did everything possible to spend time with them, help them, and participate in their events. She was truly loved and touched many lives. Judge Baker is survived by her children, Catherine A. Berra and husband, Rob, of Spring, Texas, and Clifton A. Baker and wife Rosemary of Altadena, California and her grandchildren, Megan and Drew Berra, and Emma and Sara Baker. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Donald Olin Baker, and her brothers, Allen R. Pier and Robert Pier. Visitation will be held on Monday, December 16, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the First United Methodist Church. Services will follow immediately thereafter, at 11:00 a.m. at the same location. A reception will be held after the service in the church Social Hall. Memorial donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, Texas 77320 or charity of choice. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Judge Ann Baker*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I studied under Ms. Baker in Graduate School at SHSU in 1973-74. I'm sorry for your loss. She was a fine lady. We both attended SFA high School, Houston, Tx.; she before me.*

Charles W. Lewis - July 01, 2014 at 09:10 AM



“ *Cathy and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of your mom. I first met your mom around 1982, and immediately liked her. As tough as she liked you to believe she was, it wasn't long before she became Momma Baker. She put up with my numerous middle of the night phone calls with juvenile issues, she was always understanding and helpful. I was her Bailiff on many occasions, that was always interesting! Miss seeing her at Brookshire's, miss her smile and the hug she always had for me. Y'all are in my prayers.*

Kevin Shawaker - January 02, 2014 at 01:06 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

Richard & Deborah Sledge - December 28, 2013 at 08:23 AM



“ *Cliff and Cathy, Sending condolences to you and your family in the loss of your mother. She was a special lady and will be missed.*

Genevela Moseley - December 16, 2013 at 12:47 PM

HR

“ Cathy & Clif

You had a wonderful mother and not only to you but to so many other young people in Huntsville. She was always there for them and will be missed by so many. You are fortunate to have a mother that was so loved by many and will be greatly missed. You are in our hearts and prayers in your time of loss.

Helen & Joe Rhodes

Helen & Joe Rhodes - December 13, 2013 at 05:10 PM

SF

“ Cathy & Clif,

I'm so sorry for the loss of your mom. I have such treasured memories of her, as do many people. I feel blessed to have had her in my life growing up. Sending hugs and prayers your way.

Shawna Ford - December 13, 2013 at 04:45 PM

KB

“ Clif and Cathy- *Your mom was such a treasure. Loved her smile and tender, but tough willingness to help so many families and juveniles. Wishing you peace and condolences during your grief.*

Kathy Brown - December 13, 2013 at 01:16 PM

NG

“ *Cathy and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Nancy Gray - December 13, 2013 at 12:44 PM

CJ

“ Cathy, Clif and family,

So sorry for your loss. I have been down this road myself already and know how you must be feeling. I have only the fondest of memories of your mother and her infectious smile. She had only the nicest of words for me and was always so sweet to us all. Sincere condolences and warmest of thoughts.

Cindi Shandera Johnson - December 13, 2013 at 12:28 PM

SU

“ Cathy and Clif, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a very sweet lady who will be missed very, very much. But oh the good memories we have. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Suzette - December 13, 2013 at 11:17 AM

MH

“ My prayers and thoughts to The family of Judge Baker. I had the honor of knowing Judge Baker at work and away from her work. She was always smiling, greeting , and speaking to people. She had time for you even passing. It was great to learn from her knowledge. She took time to explain things that a person was unclear on. She had a friendly and kind heart. I am glad I got to know her, people could learn a lot by her example of taking time to care for someones problems, questions, and just being a friend. I will also miss her friendly smile and pleasant personality. She was a great lady that will be missed. I know she is wearing crown now in heaven being with our Lord.

M. Hyvl - December 12, 2013 at 09:58 PM

BA

“ To the family of Judge Baker - I worked for her for several years and we had a very good working relationship. She was an excellent and fair judge and I know we all will miss her greatly. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Barbara Allen - December 12, 2013 at 07:44 PM

DE

“ It was a privilege to know Judge Baker. Condolences to her family.

Dana Eckles - December 12, 2013 at 06:45 PM

LR

“ Clif and Cathy. Thank you so much for the last years of getting to know Miss Ann. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your families .

Linda Rutledge - December 12, 2013 at 03:07 PM

BN

“ My thoughts and prayers for the Baker family.

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - December 12, 2013 at 11:53 AM