

Memorial Resolution of the Allen County Bar Association

Larry J. Burke

WHEREAS, We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, Larry J. Burke, who passed away on June 23, 2011, at the age of 82.

WHEREAS, Larry was born May 6, 1929, in Fort Wayne, the son of Cullen and Doris Burke. When he was just a toddler, Larry moved to his grandparents' farm in Albany, Indiana, with his mother and brother, Jack. When their mother died at just 29 years of age Larry, then seven years old, and Jack continued to be raised by their grandparents. Despite the difficulties of the depression and family tragedies, Larry had many great adventures growing up on the farm and enjoyed showing champion Chester White hogs at the local fair.

WHEREAS, Larry graduated at the top of his class from DeSoto High School in 1946. He worked his way through Ball State University, graduating with a BA in 1951. It was there that he met Elizabeth Rosetta Spaulding and began a lifelong romance. Larry and Betty were married in Montpelier, Indiana, on July 12, 1952.

WHEREAS, in 1954 Larry received his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. Upon graduation, he served in the United States Army in the Counter Intelligence Corps and was stationed in Wurzburg, Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1956.

WHEREAS, after Larry completed his military service, he and Betty settled in Fort Wayne, where Larry began his legal career. He joined the law firm that ultimately became Kennerk, Dumas, Burke, Backs, Salin & Long, and later became a solo practitioner. Among the many highlights of his four decades in the practice of law, Larry gave particular attention to his work on civil rights matters - a cause he was passionate about throughout his life. He worked on cases to open the local private golf courses to all, and on cases to make government hiring and promotion practices more equitable. Larry served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney early in his career and as Deputy City Attorney during the administration of Robert E. Armstrong. He chaired the Indiana State Bar Association Legal Ethics Committee and its Committee on the Economics of Practice. He served as president of the Allen County Bar Association in 1966.

WHEREAS, Larry and Betty raised their five children in Fort Wayne and were always active and involved in community affairs. Larry served on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation as member and two-time president. He also served on the board of the African American Historical Museum. He and Betty enjoyed the arts, architecture, traveling to the Southwest and sporting events.

WHEREAS, Larry had a keen intellect, read voraciously, and was a true Renaissance man. He studied yoga, pottery and calligraphy, to name a few of his interests. He was a fine storyteller, had a self-effacing manner and a great sense of humor, and could connect easily with anyone he met. He derived great joy from fatherhood and loved being surrounded by his family and friends. He often traveled to visit children, grandchildren and other relatives.

WHEREAS, in recent years, Larry enjoyed spending time with the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out), his close friend, Mary Knopp, and his lively golden doodle, Shakespeare. He also remained very active and frequently rode his bike, shot baskets in his driveway and walked Shakespeare through Franke Park,

WHEREAS, Larry was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; son, Kevin; and brother, Jack. He is survived by his sons, Dennis (married to Connie) and Tim (married to Sarah); daughters, Nancy (married to Todd) Nahrwold and Amy (married to Scott) Kosnoff; ten grandchildren, Dustin, Casie, Colleen, Jamie, Claire, Margaret, Kate, Hannah, Cameron and Allison; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was a loving husband, and a kind and proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Larry J. Burke.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present at this assembly upon this occasion; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Burke family; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread of record in the

permanent records of the federal and state courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, Larry J. Burke.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2011.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: _____
Shannon K. Reed, President

By: _____
The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Allen Superior Court