

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

WALTER E. HELMKE

Mr. President, members of the Allen County Bar Association and friends.

One of our leaders has departed. We meet solemnly to consider his impact upon our lives. Though for over fifty years he has been in our midst and we have worked with him and sought his counsel in review, the scope of his influence and activity is an inspiration to us. The face of the departed has been prominently seen in almost every type of activity in our community. In the structure of the family he has been a source of inspiration for a long period of time. In June of this year, had he lived, he would have celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary. He leaves behind his widow, one son, two daughters, twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The family unity can be demonstrated by the participation of three generations active concurrently in the practice of law. I believe this is unique.

In the religious affairs of the community he has been active. He has been Chairman of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church congregation and active in its affairs. He has served on the Board of Directors, and for a number of years as President, of the International Walther League, a youth organization of his church.

In civic affairs no one has been more active. He was one of those who started, organized and lead to completion the Allen County Memorial Coliseum. He served as co-chairman

of the fund drive for the expansion of the Lutheran and Park-view Memorial Hospitals. He was also a Director of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Children's Hospital at Indianapolis. Walter Helmke was also one of the founders of the Fort Wayne Civic Symphony Orchestra, which in the process of its evolution became the Philharmonic Orchestra which continues to serve the lives of this community.

Walter Helmke was also one of the real forces that worked toward the establishment of the Indiana University-Purdue campus in Fort Wayne, and in recognition of this and other services to education in the community and in the state, was the recipient of the first honorary doctorate degree awarded by the local campus. He had served as a member of the Indiana-Purdue Foundation, as Trustee of Indiana University and as a member of the Advisory Board of Valparaiso University.

To the extent that anyone in my lifetime deserves the title of "Mr. Republican" in this area, he certainly is the one most qualified. He served as the Allen County Republican Chairman for approximately ten years. But more importantly, there was scarcely an important political move made by his party during the period of almost fifty years in which his advice and counsel were not sought and few in which he was not an active participant. His political influence extended far beyond confines of Allen County, for he was one of the state leaders of the campaign of Robert Taft for the nomination of the Office of President and was a delegate to the National Convention.

Personally he served a term as Prosecuting Attorney of Allen County and was City Attorney for about thirteen years. He ran for Congress at a time when Republicans only ran but never served, and he was a candidate for the nomination of the Office of Governor for the State of Indiana.

A community, a state and a nation rise and fall as its institutions rise and fall. In an age in which our institutions and their values are being challenged on all sides, whether family, church government, education, or our economic system, Walter Helmke was a true conservative in the very best sense of the word, in that he was a viable, forceful leader in the defense and the improvement of these insitutions which contribute so much to our way of life. As a man so ^{careful} viable in stating his position, he naturally found those who disagreed with him and his position and beliefs. Never did such challenges cause him to hesitate or vary from his goal.

As can be observed, I have said little about his background and experience as a lawyer. All of us who have practiced in this community are aware of his dedication to his clients and his able representation of them. Many of these clients are of course well-known in the community and so need not be dealt with in detail here.

As stated, his influence permeated every facet of our society and uniformly this activity was for the betterment of that society. When a man with his integrity, his courage, his activity leaves us, there is a void that cannot be filled.

We join with his family, his widow Wilma, his son Walter, his daughters Mary Ann Scheele and Carolyn Stoltz, his grandson Paul, also a member of our association, his other grandchildren and great grandchildren in mourning his passing.

Mr. President, I move that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of the sorrow of its members upon the death of Walter E. Helmke;

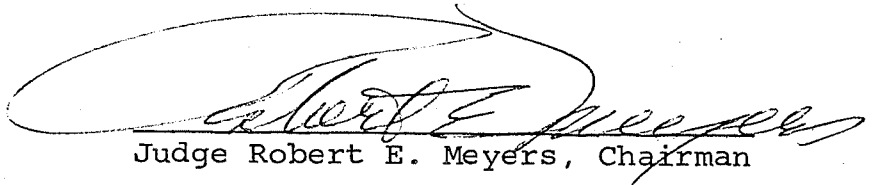
That the adoption of this Resolution be made a matter of record in the order books of the Courts of Allen County;

That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Indiana;

That a copy of this Resolution be sent to his widow Wilma and family.

WITNESS our hand and seal this 9th day of February, 1976.

Respectfully submitted,
The Allen County Bar Association
Memorial Resolution Committee



Judge Robert E. Meyers, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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