

Memorial Resolution
of the
Allen County Bar Association

Robert R. Hockensmith

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, Robert R. Hockensmith, who passed away on March 15, 2007, at the age of 78.

Born on June 7, 1928 in Bippus, Indiana, Bob grew up in Huntington County and graduated from Huntington Township High School in 1946.

After high school, Bob entered the military and served in the United States Navy for two years, and thereafter returned to Huntington and attended Huntington College. In 1953 he was reactivated by the Navy for an additional two years.

Bob commenced his professional career with the Indiana State Police and served as an Indiana State Police Officer for over twenty years, assigned both to Huntington County (as a Trooper), and at general headquarters in Indianapolis, where he became qualified as a handwriting expert and served in the legal liaison section. During his Indianapolis assignment he attended Indiana University, Indianapolis School of Law where he earned his Bachelor of Laws in 1971.

After completion of law school he retired from the Indiana State Police as a First Sergeant in the Legal Liaison Section and relocated to Fort Wayne where he entered private law practice and approximately two years later was appointed as regional director for the Indiana Criminal Justice Planning Agency. From that position he accepted an appointment with the Allen Superior Court as the first full-time Juvenile Referee and remained in that position until he was appointed a Judge of the Allen Superior Court in 1982 by Governor Robert Orr.

Professionally, Bob served the legal community in many capacities, including as a member of the Indiana Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, together with many of their committees, and was twice elected President of the counsel.

Bob continued to serve as a Judge of the Allen Superior Court until 1996 when he went on senior status and served the county as a Senior Judge through 2006.

Outside of his legal career, Bob was an avid runner and commencing at the age of 56 began pursuing marathons in earnest. Over a twelve year period he logged nearly 14,000 miles, completed 86 marathons and became the 41st runner in the United States to have completed a marathon in each of the fifty states plus the District of Columbia. He served as President of the Fort Wayne Track Club and directed the first five Hoosier marathons held in Fort Wayne.

Aside from his interest in running, Bob enjoyed other leisure activities including traveling and a very brief stint as a dance host on a cruise ship! He also enjoyed reading during his down time.

Bob is survived by his wife, Catherine (Kay Long) Hockensmith, three children, Roger Hockensmith, Ronald Hockensmith and Rae Reuill, together with step-children Sandra Petty, Robert Parker, Richard Parker, David Long and Daniel Long. He was preceded in death by his first wife of twenty-four years, Blanche Hockensmith in 1981.

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 and death of Robert R. Hockensmith; and

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 Hockensmith 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, Robert R. Hockensmith.

Dated this 27th day of July, 2007.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: Cindy A. Wolfer
Cindy A. Wolfer, President

By: Charles Pratt
The Honorable Charles Pratt
Judge, Allen Superior Court