

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**WALTER P. HELMKJE**

*WHEREAS, we are here to pay our respects to the memory of our colleague and friend Walter P. Helmke, who passed away on January 20, 2016, at the age of 88.*

*WHEREAS, Walter married his high school sweetheart and life-long love, Rowene M. Crabill on July 24, 1948. They had three children, Paul, Mark, and Marsha. Walter is survived by two children Paul (Deborah) Helmke of Fort Wayne and Bloomington, and Marsha Shirk of Oriental, N.C.; seven grandchildren, Andrea Bruce, Laura (Sean) Helmke-Long, Rebecca Bruce, Addison (Andrew "Ocean" Eiler) Helmke, Kathryn Helmke, Brighton "Buck" (Christina Leslie-Helmke) Helmke, and Claire Helmke; six great-grandchildren, Tobey and Haley Rice, Nina and Nicholas Long, Stone Eiler, and Thompson Helmke; and one sister, Carolyn Helmke Stoltz. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Rowene, who died less than four weeks earlier; his son, Mark Helmke; parents Walter E. and Wilma Wehrenberg Helmke; and sister, Mary Ann Scheele.*

*WHEREAS, Walter was born on December 28, 1927 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School and North Side High School graduating in the class of 1946. Walter received his B.A. degree from Indiana University in 1950 and his J.D. law degree from Valparaiso University in 1952.*

*WHEREAS, Walter practiced law in Fort Wayne for 62 years with the same firm, now known as Helmke Beams LLP, including 23 years with his father, Walter E. Helmke, and 18 years with his son, Paul Helmke, before retiring on October 1, 2014. He served as Allen County Prosecuting Attorney from 1963-1971, and Indiana State Senator from 1971-1975. He was the Republican nominee for U.S. Congress for the 4<sup>th</sup> (now 3<sup>rd</sup>) District in 1974 and then served as Governor Otis Bowen's liaison to the Indiana Senate in 1975-1976. In 1976 he headed Indiana's participation in the nation's bicentennial celebration.*

*WHEREAS, Walter was very active in local and statewide community affairs including serving as: Board Chairman of the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce; Board Chairman and member of the Board of Parkview Memorial Hospital; Vice President, Secretary, and Member of the Board of the Foellinger Foundation, Inc.; President of the Downtown Kiwanis Club; member of the YMCA Board of Trustees; member of the Fort Wayne Quest Club; member of the IPFW Foundation Board of Trustees and Chairman of the IPFW Community Advisory Council; Chairman of the Board of Leadership Fort Wayne; and member of the Board of Parkview Health System. His statewide service included: Chairman of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission; Chairman of the State Board of Mental Health; member of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education; member of the I.U. Executive Council; member of the Indiana Criminal Justice Planning Agency; and member of the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board.*

*WHEREAS, Walter received many honors during his long and illustrious career including: Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Indiana Institute of Technology 1989; Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Purdue University, 1990; Sagamore of Wabash awards from Governors Otis R. Bowen and Robert D. Orr, 1976 and 1981 respectively. He also received the Allen County Bar Association's first Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, and North Side High School's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015.*

*WHEREAS, Walter was very active in Indiana University alumni activities. In 1953 he was a Founder and the First Treasurer of the first Indiana University Varsity Club in the nation. He was also active in the I.U. Alumni Association of Allen County. He was a member of the IPFW Foundation Board of Directors*

and of the Advisory Board of IPFW. He taught Political Science at IPFW. He also served a 3-year term on the Executive Council of the I.U. Alumni Association. He was awarded the Ralph Broyles medal by Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne.

WHEREAS, Walter was a remarkably intelligent and dedicated public servant and a loyal and congenial friend and colleague. He was a good friend to people and the community. He enjoyed law, politics, golf, local history, and nearly every person he met. But most of all loved spending time with his family and friends, particularly at the long-time family home at Lake James.

WHEREAS, we were fortunate to have known him and we shall miss him.

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 Walter P. Helmke.

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 Helmke 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, Walter P. Helmke.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016



THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: Bart Arnold  
Bart Arnold, President

By: Craig J. Bobay  
The Honorable Craig J. Bobay  
Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution prepared and presented by the Honorable William C. Lee