

CHESTER L. TESTER

IN MEMORIA 1955 FEB 3 AM 8:44

The members of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association again pause in their professional pursuits to pay their affectionate tribute to a departed associate. It is with unusual sadness that we note the passing of Chester L. Tester, who, during his active years in our midst, enjoyed an unusually high position in our personal esteem and professional regard. It is with subdued voice and dampened eye that we reflect upon our pleasant associations with him during former years.

Chester Leland Tester was a typical product of a small Hoosier town. From the public schools of Pennville he proceeded to Indiana University where he completed a five-year Arts-Law course, receiving his Bachelors' degree in 1912 and his Law degree in 1913. While at the University he manifested those qualities and interests that later enabled him to become a successful lawyer. He was elected a member of the honorary law fraternity of Gamma Eta Gamma, was selected business manager of the 1913 Arbutus, the Indiana University Annual, and was a member of the University wrestling team. Worthwhile campus movements found in him both support and active participation. Although differing with him in party politics, he became an ardent collaborator with the late Wendell Willkie in campus ^{politics} and was his life long friend and admirer. He was also a campus contemporary of former Governor Paul V. McNutt and Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton. After his graduation from law school, he located in Fort Wayne where he in turn became identified with the S. P. Bowser company, with the Naturalization Department of the Federal Government during World War I, and thereafter as an active practitioner at the Allen County Bar. During the incumbency of the late Sol A. Wood on the Circuit Bench, he served for several years, and with unusually good judgment and sympathetic understanding, as Allen County Juvenile Attorney.

"Chet" Tester, as he was intimately referred to by his close friends and fellow lawyers, was a good lawyer,—"good" in every sense

in which that descriptive is used by both the lawyer and the layman. Possessing an excellent mind, his ability to ascertain the law was fortified with those qualities of character, courage, courtesy, and consideration which enabled him to enjoy the confidence of clients, the attentive ear of courts, and the respect of opposing counsel. The causes he ~~expressed~~^{expressed} invariably possessed merit—the arguments he advanced always had substance. His professional endeavors were undertaken with utmost sincerity, with full consciousness of both their strength and their frailties, with complete devotion, with undaunted courage, and were, without exception, concluded with dignity, honor, and credit to himself, his clients, and to the profession. High professional concepts enabled him to be firm, but yet fair; courageous, but yet considerate; energetic and industrious in the causes he championed, but yet courteous and just to those opposed to him. Indeed, he was a definite credit to the Bar. Our profession has been given added lustre, our lives have been enriched, and the cause of justice has been dignified by this worthy advocate who has taken his leave from us to plead his cause before the Great Judge, Eternal in the Heavens.

"Chet's" departure has left a particular void in the lives of those who have known him intimately throughout the years. The attractiveness of his personality, the genuineness of the man, his unobtrusiveness, his earnestness, his rare sense of humor, his capacity for friendship, and his loyalty to his friends endeared him to all who were privileged to know him intimately. Without ostentation, fanfare, or public acclaim, he walked quietly and uprightly among his fellows, exemplifying at all times the virtues of a gentleman and the high precepts of his profession. He was, without doubt, at the time of his retirement from active practice, one of the most popular and best liked members of our association. The esteem in which he was held was generously evidenced by the frequency of his selection as special judge in this and surrounding counties. Although we have been denied continued contact with him during late years, yet we shall miss him and shall long cherish the memories of our pleasant associations with him.


Death is invariably accompanied with grief, anguish, heartache, and sorrow. It comes with shocking severity to the loved ones who survive. The burden of surviving a loved one such as Chester Teeter is heavy, indeed. To his devoted wife, who carries that burden well nigh alone, we express our tenderest sympathies and kindest regards. May the consciousness of his superior qualities, as both husband and lawyer, of the honor which characterized his every act, of the circumspection of his entire life, and of the affectionate regard in which he was held by his lawyer friends comfort and sustain her during this, the hour of her grief.

Respectfully submitted,

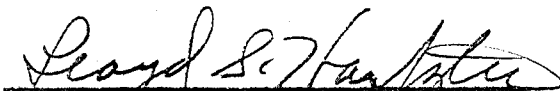
Allen County Indiana Bar Association


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ATTEST: 1-21-55


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