

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE H. LEONARD

1894 - 1951

\* \* \* \* \*

Death respects neither time nor person. It may abruptly terminate the fulness of life and the beautiful season of Christmas joy.

Judge George H. Leonard was stricken by a heart attack at the moderate age of fifty-seven years, in the midst of a useful and active life, and died two short weeks later, on December 23, 1951. He graduated from the Law School of Tri-State College, at Angola, Indiana, and was admitted to the practice of law in 1922. Into the all too few years that followed, he packed an abundance of activity and service to his community, to his fraternal associates and to his country.

He was a member of the Scottish Rite and the Lodge of Perfection, a York Rite Mason, and a member of Fort Wayne Commandry of the Knights Templar. He was also a member of the Mizpah Shrine Temple and its Finance Committee, and also served as its Illustrious Potentate in 1938. He was active in the YMCA for many years and served as a member of its board of directors and of its finance committee. He also held membership in the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce and participated in many civic activities.

His record in his chosen profession is one of almost continuous service to his community. Upon his graduation from law school, began his public life by serving as deputy prosecutor of Steuben County. Shortly thereafter, he came to Fort Wayne, where he became one of the best known members of the legal profession.

Upon the establishment of our Allen Superior Court No. 2, in 1927, he was appointed as its first judge. He has graced the bench of that court such a large portion of the time since its institution, that it is difficult to think of that court without at the same time thinking of Judge Leonard. He dispensed justice without fear or favor. His decisions were never dictated by community influence or political affiliation of the litigants.

In addition to his many years on the bench, he served under Judge Thomas W. Slick, as Master of Chancery in the United States District Court. He also served as attorney for Wayne Township and as an associate city attorney under Mayor Harry W. Baals. Most of his time in the general practice of law was spent as a partner of former Congressman David Hogg under the firm <sup>name</sup> of Hogg and Leonard. He was a member of the Allen County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations. Last year he was elected as the first National President of the Alumni of Tri-State College.

He served his country in World War I and World War II. During the latter conflict, he was a major in the Judge Advocate Division of the United States Army, and he held membership in the Judge Advocates Association. He was a member of Lincoln Post No. 82 of the American Legion. He served for a time as Post Adjutant and at the time of his death was a member of the Resolutions and By-Laws Committee.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne. He conscientiously endeavored to live a life at all times guided by Christian principles.

Judge Leonard, throughout his life in Fort Wayne was a leader in Republican politics, having served as County Chairman from 1924 to 1927. He took special delight in recounting his first service to the Republican cause in Fort Wayne - that of

sweeping out the party headquarters - to which job he was immediately assigned by David Hogg when he offered his services on behalf of the party. The alacrity with which he accepted that menial task must have made an impression, because in an incredibly short time he became the head of the Republican party in Allen County.

Judge Leonard was one of the boys who "went west" to make good. He was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, but he came to the great middle west for his education and for his life's work. The younger members of the Allen County Bar - and not a few who are no longer in the flush of youth - will long remember his generosity as a host to the LL.B. Club in his cottage at Crooked Lake. All of us in the legal profession in Fort Wayne know of his abilities as a lawyer and as a judge. We sincerely feel, however, that even these outstanding abilities in his profession are overshadowed by his love and devotion for his family, to whom we offer sincere sympathy in their hour of bereavement. We pledge to his beloved wife, Georgia, his two sons, Robert and Thomas, his three sisters, Mrs. Leon Berry, Mrs. Joseph Moffet and Mrs. Irene Miller, and his two brothers, Chester Leonard and Ralph Leonard, that we shall long revere his memory.

We shall miss him at our professional meetings and in the courtroom, even as they shall miss him in the family circle. We join with them in a fervent prayer that our sorrow may one day be turned into joy, and that the Omnipotent Judge, whose justice he so earnestly attempted to administer here on earth, may, in His infinite justice and mercy, reward him with the blessings of an Eternal Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

SPECIAL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Henry Wasley  
(Henry Wasley) Chairman

Fred D. Schoppman  
(Fred D. Schoppman)

William R. Schannen  
(William R. Schannen)

Edward S. Meyers  
(Edward S. Meyers)

John H. Logan  
(John H. Logan)