

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES D. STURGIS

Our friend and colleague, James D. Sturgis, was born in Wells County, Indiana, July 21, 1882, and was graduated from Marion Normal College in 1906.

Early in life he formed the firm desire to become a lawyer and in alternate years he taught school to earn money to pursue his legal education the succeeding year. During this period he was appointed principal of the Craigville, Indiana grade school.

Jim had heart and mind to achieve the good end desired. Industry, patience and determination gained for Jim the goal he cherished and in 1912 he graduated from Indiana University School of Law with the degree of L.L.B.

In Bloomington, Indiana, he met the lovely Ruth Wylie and they were joined in marriage August 23, 1912.

He began the practice of law in Montpelier, Indiana in 1913, and there he was honored by appointment as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of Blackford County and also as attorney for Blackford County and City Attorney for Montpelier. In 1929 he removed his law office to the City of Fort Wayne where he continued in the practice of law until the year 1933 when Governor Paul V. McNutt appointed him Deputy Attorney General of the State of Indiana. He was later appointed Public Counsellor of the State of Indiana by Governors Clifford Townsend and Henry F. Schricker. In these offices he engaged in the trial of legal

actions in every county in the State of Indiana except one.

Longing for private practice he resigned his position as Public Counsellor in 1941 and returned to the City of Fort Wayne where he continued his general practice until the shadows of life's last night enveloped him in the repose and calm of endless sleep.

In December 1955, Jim's heart failed and only desperate emergency measures saved his life. He knew "full well" that his heart was bad, and a lesser man would have retired to the side. Not so, Jim, he carried his medicine and nitroglycerin, denied fate, and practiced law.

The quiet charm of Jim's true friendship enclosed him within the warmth of family, friend and client.

Few indeed may there be who devote a life to the law and see only friends among adversaries as among clients. But such was Jim. His willingness to recognize the right, and to fight for it if need be, distinguished him. His calm intent, understanding of the futility of conflict, patience with others, and inherent kindness have well served his clients and honored him.

James D. Sturgis was a member of the First Methodist Church, Montpelier Masonic Lodge No. 600, a Scottish Rite Mason and member of the Fort Wayne Consistory, Allen County Bar Association and Post 47, American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Wylie Sturgis, his daughter, Mrs. Harmon Dick Frye, and four grandchildren.

"Hand grasps hand, eye lights eye in good friendship,  
and great hearts expand,  
And grow one in the sense of this world's life."

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Lloyd S. Hartaler

Hon. Clarence R. McNabb

Hon. Harold E. Korn

Hon. Robert E. Leonard

Hon. Harry H. Hilgemann

Hon. William H. Schannen

James M. Barrett, Jr.

Edwin R. Thomas, Chairman