

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

John Martin Smith

WHEREAS, we are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, John Martin Smith, who passed away on October 5, 2011, at the age of 72.

WHEREAS, John, a sixth generation native of DeKalb County, was born to Walter Melvin Smith and Kathleen Ruth (Creager) Smith on August 17, 1939. John grew up on the family farm near Butler, Indiana. He graduated from Butler High School in 1957. He attended Indiana University (Bloomington) and graduated with honors in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in business. John went on to attend the Indiana University School of Law (Bloomington) graduating with honors in 1965. He was a member of the Order of the Coif and a Note Editor for the Indiana Law Journal.

WHEREAS, after graduating from law school, John returned to DeKalb County and in October 1965, John began practicing law in Auburn. He was a member of the DeKalb County Bar Association, the Indiana Bar Association and the American Bar Association during his forty six years of practice, and a member of the Allen County Bar Association since 2005. He served terms as Secretary and as President of the DeKalb County Bar Association. John served as the City Attorney for the City of Auburn from 1976 through 1983. From 1998 until his untimely death, John had the pleasure of practicing law together with his son, Thompson Smith. John was well respected by his colleagues in the bar, by the members of the bench in the state and federal courts and by the numerous clients who John represented during his long and honorable career.

WHEREAS, in addition to his professional life, John was an extraordinary community leader. He served as an officer and on the boards of directors for numerous various public and not-for-profit organizations, a few of them being: Eckhart Public Library, Auburn Board of Public Works, DeKalb County Visitors Bureau, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival, Inc., Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Northeastern Center, Acres, Inc., Indiana Historical Society, American Truck Historical Society, Indiana Landmarks and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, He was the founder of the DeKalb County Historical Society, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States, Inc.

WHEREAS, John had a passion for history, particularly local history, that began at a young age. He served as the DeKalb County historian since 1982. He wrote numerous historical articles and was the author of seventeen books, including "Auburn: The Classic City", "DeKalb County in Vintage Postcards", "Allen county in Vintage Postcards" and "Historical Guide to DeKalb County Courthouses and Government". In 1990, John published "History of DeKalb County from 1837 to 1987" in observance of the Sesquicentennial of DeKalb County.

WHEREAS, John earned well deserved honor and recognition for his dedication to his community, having been awarded a Certificate of Commendation for the Promotion and Preservation of the History of DeKalb County, by the American Association of State and Local History in 1990, the 1994 Medal of Arts from the Auburn Arts Commission, the Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Frank O'Bannon in November 1997, the Allen Graber Citizen of the Year Award from the Auburn Chamber of Commerce in 1997, and the Congressional Johnny Appleseed Award in 1999.

WHEREAS, in addition to his passion for the law and his community, John, as a dedicated family man, possessed and expressed a deep love for his family. John met his wife, Barbara Smith, affectionately known to all as "Bobbie", while both were students at Indiana University and they began a lifelong romance. They married in Logansport, Indiana on September 3, 1960. In addition to her teaching, being an entrepreneur and her involvement with the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States, Inc., Bobbie, for many years, assisted John in his law practice, serving as his secretary and bookkeeper. John and Bobbie celebrated their fifty-first wedding anniversary shortly before their untimely deaths. As they were inseparable during their life together, so they are now together for eternity. John and Bobbie are survived by three sons, John Clark Creager Smith, John Charles Thompson Smith and John Carl Patrick Smith, their wives and six grandchildren, Caleb, Conner, Kathleen, Katie, Kendyl and Leah, all whom they loved and adored, especially when they would meet for dinner on Sunday evenings at the "Farm".

WHEREAS, John Martin Smith was regarded as scholarly, intelligent, articulate, honest, humorous, interesting, generous and, perhaps above all of these, compassionate. He was a good friend to all and to the community at large.

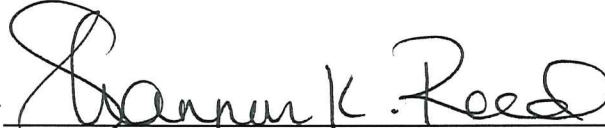
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of John Martin Smith.

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 Smith 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, John Martin Smith.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 2011.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 
Shannon K. Reed, President



By: 
The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Allen Superior Court