

- IN MEMORIAM -

MERL A. BARNES

The Supreme Ruler of the Universe saw fit on Sunday, September 27, 1959, to take from our midst a respected citizen of this community and member of the Allen County Bar Association, Merl A. Barnes. At the time of his death Merl was 53 years of age, and was unexpectedly called to his reward while vigorously engaged in bringing about a fulfillment of his ambitions and cherished undertakings.

Merl was born in Powhatan Point, Ohio. He attended Dartmouth University where he graduated in the year 1928, and then attended Michigan University Law School where he graduated in 1931. He was married to Mary ^{O'Lea}~~Ellen~~ of Enid, Oklahoma, whose father was a lawyer. He is survived by his widow and a son twelve years of age, Merl O. Barnes; his mother, Mrs. Lucy P. Barnes; and a brother, Benjamin Elton Barnes, all of Fort Wayne.

It was clearly apparent to those who knew Merl well that he possessed ambition, not ambition for personal glory, but ambition for success, the rendering of service to his community, to be a good lawyer, to bring about a betterment of conditions for the members of his chosen profession and for this association, an ambition to lead a worthwhile life and to make a contribution to the improvement of this community generally. With these ambitions he possessed great and untiring stamina and an unflinching desire to work and apply himself to

the projects which he undertook.

At the time of his sudden death he was president of the Allen County Bar Association and for many years, continuously to the time of his death, worked diligently for the benefit of this association and its members. For about twenty-five years he was engaged in the practice of law in Fort Wayne and was associated with the firm of Parry and Barns. He was the immediate past Commander of Post 47 of the American Legion and has always been active in veterans' affairs. He was in the Service and during his enlistment served eighteen months in Washington, D. C. in the office of the Judge Advocate General. He was a member of the State and American Bar Associations. In addition to these affiliations he was a former member of the Veterans Aid Commission; a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist; Summit City Lodge 170, F. & A. M.; the Scottish Rite; the Mizpah Shrine Temple; Fort Wayne Kiwanis Club, of which organization he served as secretary; and he belonged to the Y. M. C. A. He also belonged to the Allen County Republican Club and took an active part in political affairs of this community.

As we meet here today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of our departed member, Merl Barns, there is much to be learned for our exemplification by a review of his life, work, and achievements. He had ambition. He was not afraid to work, and did work. By his ability, research and application he became a good lawyer, respected by the members of his profession and recognized by them as a worthy and formidable adversary. He gained for himself the respect of all of the citizens of this community. Through his work and the offices of trust bestowed upon him by the various organizations to which he belonged, he contributed much to the welfare and advancement of these organizations and their

members, as well as for the community generally. His was an energetic life designed to render unselfish service.

Merl was a valuable member of the Allen County Bar Association. He did not belong to it just to be a member or to gain recognition for himself by holding various offices in the association. He possessed within his heart a burning desire to introduce and get passed legislation and to bring about programs that would result in benefit to all the members of this association. To the bringing about of this desire he worked constantly, and the hour was never too late or the distance too great for him to do something to advance this cause.

Merl was a considerate husband, a devoted father, and was never too busy to pause and visit about his experiences with his son.

His passing was untimely. He was removed from our midst in the prime of life. His work was not done. We shall all miss him. And while his ambitions of life were not all completed and carried out, he left behind him one of the greatest monuments that can be constructed; respect, admiration, success, and a constructive and energetic life devoted to the betterment of this community and his friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Allen County Indiana Bar Association give a public expression of the sorrow of its members on the death of Merl A. Barns;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the widow, son and mother of Merl A. Barns;

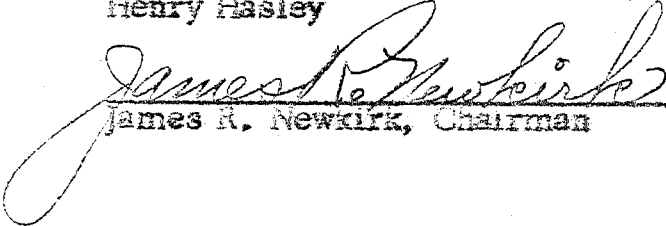
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be placed of record in the permanent records of the Courts of Allen County, Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,

ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
by its Memorial Resolution Committee

William H. Schannen
Lloyd S. Hartzler
Harold E. Korn
Robert E. Leonard
Clarence R. McNabb
Dan C. Flanagan
Edwin R. Thomas
Henry Hasley

Dated:
September 29, 1959


James R. Newark, Chairman