

R. F. BAIRD, SR.
1883 - 1951

Mr. R. F. Baird, distinguished past Vice President and General Counsel of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, died at his home Sunday evening, September 30, 1951.

He was born December 16, 1883, on a farm in Atchison County, Missouri. He lived in Oklahoma for a number of years where he practiced law prior to moving to Fort Wayne. He became associated with The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in March, 1925, and after an outstanding record of service with the Company, retired as of March 1, 1951. He became General Counsel of the Company in 1927, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1929, was made a Vice President in 1936, and a member of the Finance Committee in 1939. He also served as Chairman of the Employees' Retirement Plan Council.

Mr. Baird held a prominent place in life insurance legal circles. He was a member of the Association of Life Insurance Counsel and served on its Executive Committee. He was a member of the Legal Section of the American Life Convention and served as its Chairman in 1933. He was also a member of the International Association of Life Insurance Counsel. Mr. Baird made valuable contributions in the work of these organizations.

In the civic life of the community, Mr. Baird was at all times a good citizen. He was a member of the Fort Wayne Guest Club, of which he was a past President, Fort Wayne Country Club, and the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Masonic Orders and belonged both to the Scottish Rite Consistory and to the Shrine. He was also a member of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the First Presbyterian Church.

For some months prior to his death Mr. Baird realized that he was suffering from a serious heart impairment, and among his papers was a brief request that memorial resolutions, if adopted, be restricted to expressions of respect and regret. We do not believe, however, that we violate the spirit of his request in submitting for your consideration some unsolicited appraisals of his character as a man. The following statements recur many times in letters received at the time of his retirement:

"Gracious good will"
"Unfailing courtesy"
"Kindness and understanding"
"Unbounded patience"
"Courtesy extended without regard to status; courtesy which did not fade in times of stress"
"Friendliness"
"Dignity"
"Incisive intellect"

Because of the widespread scope of the business of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, some members of the local bar did not have the opportunity to observe Mr. Baird's methods and manner of work. He enjoyed a national reputation in life insurance, corporation, and investment law. As an executive, he inspired trust and confidence through the example of his own conduct. His record of service will be a continuing source of inspiration, and we here record our profound regrets at his passing.