

Memorial Resolution
of the
Allen County Bar Association
Richard VerWiebe

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, Richard Ver Wiebe, who passed away on April 20, 2011, at the age of 79.

Dick was a long time Fort Wayne resident and attorney. He is survived by his wife, Carol Ver Wiebe of Fort Wayne and his children, Ann Elizabeth and Richard, Jr., and two granddaughters, Avalon and Mandala.

After graduating from West Lafayette High School in 1949, Dick obtained his Undergraduate Degree from Purdue University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. While at Purdue, Dick attended the ROTC program and subsequently served as an officer during the Korean War. After completing his duty, he returned to law school at Indiana University and led the championship moot court team also receiving the J. Patrick Bradshaw award for excellence in moot court competition. He received his Law Degree in 1958 and then moved to Fort Wayne with his wife, Carol.

Dick entered the practice of law in the office of attorney Solly Frankenstein and also spent his early legal career in the firm of Lebamoff & VerWiebe. Later the firm became Lebamoff, Ver Wiebe and Snow.

He was very active in the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association and served as a member of its Board of Directors for many years. Dick was in private practice for 20 years, focusing on cases dealing with political and civil liberties, before becoming an administrative law judge in 1979 for the Social Security Administration, a position he held for 29 years.

He helped found and served as chairman of the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Civil Liberties Union and was instrumental in founding Switchboard, a local hotline for troubled youth. Dick also served in leadership roles with the Allen County Bar Association and the Allen County chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Even beyond his impact on the legal community however, Dick was probably best known in the fine arts community in Fort Wayne. He was the founder and host of a long-running weekly radio show on WBNI called "Best Seat in the House." The show began in 1978 as a 30 minute show called "How They Sang" but two years later it expanded to one hour and featured Golden Age singers with comments from Dick and his co-host. Dick served on the board of the Fine Arts Foundation (now Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne) and, along with Carol, helped found the Cinema Center and Friends of the Allen County Public Library.

In addition to commenting on singers, Dick himself was an accomplished vocalist who began singing with the Philharmonic Chorus in 1959 and continued to sing with other groups in the Philharmonic, in local theater, and in the Fort Wayne Opera Club. He also was a talented actor. He was a four-time Anthony Award winner at the Civic Theater, where he often starred in musical productions. He had leading roles in productions at the Foellinger, Arena and First Presbyterian theaters in Fort Wayne

In short, he was a talented, flamboyant personality, who was, in all things, always "on stage."

During his life, Dick never slowed down. He was even featured in a Journal Gazette article "Retiree finds place in the kitchen" discussing his collection of cookbooks and love of cooking where he described his style of cooking as "adventuresome."

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Richard Ver Wiebe; and

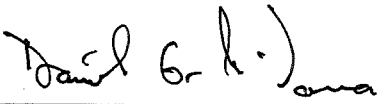
Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present at this assembly upon this occasion; and

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 Ver Wiebe family; and

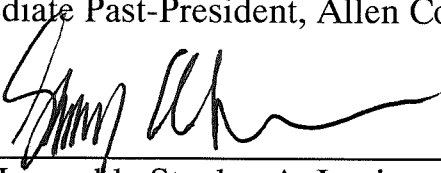
Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the Federal and State Courts of Allen County, Indiana to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend Richard Ver Wiebe.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2011.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 

Daniel McNamara
Immediate Past-President, Allen County Bar Association

By: 

The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Judge, Allen Superior Court