

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE E. MOUNTZ

1908 — 1951

MEMORIAL TESTIMONIAL

BY

THE ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA BAR ASSOCIATION

When death reaches out to grasp from life one whose span seems far from having run its full course, the loss is much the greater to accept and reconcile. At such a time the truism, "Man proposes while God disposes", strikes a responsive chord in us all.

The early death of George E. Mountz comes as a shock to his many lawyer friends of the Allen County, Indiana Bar Association. While realizing the seriousness of his illness of the past two and one-half weeks it was hoped by all that his rugged constitution and fighting spirit would provide a reservoir of strength that would restore him to health and the eventual resumption of his practice. Such was not meant to be.

George E. Mountz died on the 3rd day of October, 1951, at 6:55 A.M. at the Lutheran Hospital of this city, at the age of forty-three years. The immediate cause of his death was an acute heart disturbance which came upon him while attending a high school football game in the company of his family the evening of September 14, 1951. The deceased was born in Garrett, Indiana on the 30th day of January, 1908, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Mountz.

He was educated in the public schools in Garrett, Indiana and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from De Pauw University in 1930. While at De Pauw University he was affiliated with Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity and participated in athletics and was a member of a midwestern championship basketball team. While in college he met Miss Louise Smith whom he later married in 1935 and to their union was born a son, Peter, now thirteen years of age and a

daughter, Pamela, now eleven years of age. Deciding upon a career in the footsteps of his father, he pursued his legal education at Harvard University, graduating from that school in 1933, and was admitted to the Indiana Bar the same year.

He began the active practice of law in the office of his father in Garrett where under the personal guidance and influence of his greatest teacher, his father, his outstanding ability was soon recognized and respected. He was first honored publicly by the people of his community when elected to the office of DeKalb County Prosecuting Attorney. He was re-elected to this office for two successive terms. At the time of his death he was attorney for the City of Garrett and for DeKalb County. In his home community he was an active member of the Garrett Methodist Church, the Chamber of Commerce, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Lions Club, the American Legion, the Garrett Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Auburn and Garrett Country Clubs, the Garrett Lodge 537, Free and Accepted Masons, and he was a member of the Scottish Rite and Mizaph Shrine in Fort Wayne. He was a member of the Board of Works of the City of Garrett and was a Director of the Garrett State Bank. He was also a member of the Indiana State Bar Association, the Allen County Bar Association and the DeKalb County Bar Association. He was interested in the program for Boy Scouts and was a member of that organization's regional board.

At the outbreak of World War II he applied for a commission in the United States Naval Reserve and was accepted; after serving throughout the war and several months thereafter, he was separated with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. During the period of his naval service he was named a member of the Japanese War Crimes Commission and as a legal officer was assigned to the prosecution of a number of Japanese charged with high war crimes.

Shortly prior to the death of his father, Howard W. Mountz, he formed a law partnership on November 1, 1960 with Attorney Leigh L. Hunt, a former

president of this Association. Offices are maintained by this firm in both Fort Wayne and Garrett. George E. Mounia continued to act as local counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad which his father represented for many years, before him.

In his death there is not alone the loss of a young man of future promise but a young lawyer has passed on, who in the tradition of an able father had already proved himself as one possessed of strong intellect and the highest integrity. His splendid bearing, imposing stature and affable manner were natural attributes with which he was gifted, and which served to make him even more effective as an advocate. His keen insight and understanding of practical factors influencing laymen concerning legal deliberation and judicial process made him especially successful in the trial of cases before juries. In the legal career of George E. Mounia, while he was ardent in the presentation of a cause or zealously protective in a matter of defense, there is not one remembered instance when the personality of the opposing counsel became a matter in issue.

The purposefulness of his life, his strength of intellect and character, his loyalty to religious ideals, his devotion to his family and profession makes the loss of this outstanding patriotic young American lawyer felt even greater.

To the bereaved widow and children, mother, sister and brother we extend our most sincere sympathy, fully realizing the irreparable loss they have suffered in this sad and untimely bereavement, but assuring them of our sympathy toward them and our sharing of their sorrow.

We the undersigned recommend that this testimonial be adopted and spread on the records of this meeting of the court of this county and

that a copy of it be sent to the bereaved family of our most beloved associ-
ate, and to the DeKalb County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted in loving memory,

DEKALB COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Henry Hasley
Henry Hasley, Chairman

Edward W. Meyers
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William H. Shannon
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