

THOMAS E. RUZZO

August 18, 1942 - June 26, 1985

Once again we gather with sadness in our hearts to mark the death of one of our beloved members. We are shocked by the passing of Thomas E. Ruzzo on June 26, 1985, at the youthful age of 42, yet we are inspired by the determination which kept him active in the practice of law while suffering through the illness which ultimately claimed his life.

Tom was born August 18, 1942, at Marion, Ohio, the son of Judge Edward J. Ruzzo and Kathryn Ruzzo, both of whom survive him. He was educated in the Marion, Ohio public schools and was graduated from Purdue University in 1965 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve through the ROTC program. He and the former Margaret E. (Peggy) Klein were married in 1965. He was called to active duty in 1965, and served both in Colorado and Great Britain, where the first child, Beth Anne, was born of the marriage of Peggy and Tom.

He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1969 and decided to follow his father's profession and enrolled in Ohio Northern University School of Law from which he received the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1972. The second child, Sara, was born to Peggy and Tom in 1973, completing their family to whom Tom was totally and lovingly devoted.

Tom joined the law firm of Adair, Perry, Beers, McAlister and Mallers in 1972 and has served with them in the practice through the merger of two distinguished firms into Beers, Mallers, Backs, Salin & Larmore, the firm with which he was a partner at his death.

Tom's expertise was in the field of municipal law, and he served as counsel for a number of governmental bodies. He spent literally hundreds of hours on work related to organization, negotiation, and construction of the new Allen County Jail, and is considered one of the people directly responsible for this remarkable accomplishment. He was also directly involved in negotiation for and the drafting of legislation to allow for the financial incentives necessary to entice G.M. to locate in Allen County. In addition to his law

practice, Tom taught at the Indiana University and Purdue University Regional Campus in the Center for Real Estate Education and Research and made substantial contributions to the course text book.

Tom was an interested and participating athlete. He played on the Marion Harding High School state championship football team and on the squadron football team with the Air Force in England. His daughters are active participants in swimming, golf, and tennis, and his time and encouragement on their behalf in the past will sustain them in the future. With courage and determination he has battled the dark knight since 1977 with resiliency, desire, and supported in love by his wife and children.

So we say "Good Bye" to Tom whose example should guide us in adversity and inspire us to "run the good race and complete the course." It is moved that this Memorial Resolution be approved and adopted by the Allen County Bar Association, that it be spread of record in the Circuit and Superior Courts, and copies be furnished to his family.

Respectfully submitted,