

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

WILLARD SHAMBAUGH

Mr. President, members of the Allen County Bar Association and friends.

A true leader has departed this mortal scene. The voice of Willard Shambaugh will no longer be heard in the councils of the community. A great void has been created by his death.

In describing the life of such a man, I recall the words of philosopher Seneca "Philosophy is the heart and law of life, and it teaches us what to do in all cases, and, like good marksmen, to hit the white at any distance." I think that this describes the impact of Willard Shambaugh. To help what we can help, to accept what we cannot change and to know the difference.

Willard Shambaugh attended the University of Michigan and received his degree in law from Harvard. He started to practice immediately upon his admission to the Bar in 1922. He not only was an immediate success, but also a continuing success, as evidenced by his happiness in the practice, as well as by his lifetime retention of important clients, many of whom are known to all of us.

Willard was also a banker. As general counsel member of the Board and as Chairman of the Board of Lincoln National Bank, he contributed much to the growth of that institution and to the total community. As a corporate lawyer,

he had and retained a feeling of responsibility towards the community in which the corporations existed and insisted that the corporations conduct their affairs in harmony with the responsibility to the community. I can recall a situation in which he believed so strongly that the corporation meet a pressing situation in a manner which was not acceptable to the owners of the corporation. The owners refused in that case to let him represent it, but secured separate counsel. Yet he was so important and so well thought of by the officers and directors of that corporation that he retained its business in all other matters affecting the corporation.

In politics, by his own admission, or bragging, he was a Cleveland Democratic, and while I never knew exactly what that meant, I failed to find any great difference between that and a Twentieth Century conservative Republican. ~~In fact,~~ it was easy to reappoint Willard as Democratic Representative on the School Board with assurance of no great philosophical disagreements. In fact, for almost twenty-five years Willard Shambaugh served this community as a member, and as President for different periods, of the School Board. As one of his more important functions on the Board, he arranged the compromise which made the creation of the Fort Wayne Community Schools possible without serious conflict and litigation. He also presided after the consolidation and was instrumental in developing the building

program in the Wayne, Washington and St. Joseph Townships and the City of Fort Wayne. The development of the junior high school, or the 633 educational system, was accomplished during his tenure on the Board.

Those who were fortunate enough to be acquainted with him will always remember his keen sense of humor - each will remember his own favorite story told by Mr. Shambaugh. Like so many who were deeply involved in his profession and his civic responsibilities, he found it necessary to have a retreat, a place to escape. For Willard, this was a farm on which a lake was located across the line in DeKalb County. This came to be known affectionately as "Soggy Hollow".

He is survived by a daughter Shirley married to James A. Beeman and a grandson Jim W. Beeman. To them we express our sympathy, and at the same time give our assurance that his memory will always be retained in the community. His actions have been responsible for many monuments, whether in the form of a school named after him, or in the corporate entities which he assisted in establishing. He was truly a unique officer who will not be forgotten.

Mr. President, I move that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of the sorrow of its members upon the death of Willard Shambaugh;

That the adoption of this Resolution be made a matter of record in the order books of the Courts of Allen County;

That a copy of this Resolution be sent to his daughter Shirley Beeman and family.

WITNESS our hand and seal this 6th day of May, 1976.

Respectfully submitted,
The Allen County Bar Association
Memorial Resolution Committee



Judge Robert E. Meyers, Chairman

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