

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM V. SOWERS

July 16, 1916 - September 15, 1993

We are here today to pay respects to the memory of our distinguished colleague and friend, Bill Sowers, who passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 1993.

Bill was born in Winnfield, Louisiana on July 16, 1916 and grew up in Winnfield, Louisiana. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938 from N.W. State College of Louisiana and his Masters degree from Louisiana State University. He went on to study law at University of Michigan where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 1948. He commenced his practice of law in Indianapolis and in 1949 joined the Fort Wayne National Bank and served as executive vice-president and senior trust officer before he retired in 1979. He served on the Indiana Bar Foundation, the Indiana Bar Association and the Indiana Probate Study Commission.

Bill's accomplishments in the fields of law, business and civic commitment are too numerous to recount. To cite a few will define the depth of his involvement in this community and this state.

An ardent community leader, Bill Sowers was treasurer of the Fort Wayne Park Foundation, where he was a charter member and founder since its inception in 1974. He also served on the Allen County Park Board.

As a co-trustee of the Freimann Charitable Trust while at Fort Wayne National Bank, he enabled the building of Freimann Square Park and the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

His devotion to nature and conservation in the Fort Wayne area set a shining example for all to follow. As a Lindenwood Cemetery Board member, he helped raise money to develop and lease to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, 110 acres of heavily wooded area that had been held in surplus by the cemetery. In 1987, he solicited a donation to the Park Foundation for the Lindenwood Park and environmental study area to be deeded to the Park Board. Bill's commitment to conservation and related interests led to his becoming a life trustee and former president of the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Throughout his life, he held many responsible and varied positions both within and outside the legal area.

At the time of his death, he was a board member emeritus at Tri-State University. He served as well on the Board of Supervisors of the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District. Bill was an ex-officio member of the Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners and was the former president of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, where he was instrumental in raising money to help renovate the old City Hall and erect Historic Fort Wayne.

A former commander in the Naval Reserves, he served with distinction in World War II and the Korean War.

Bill was given a public eulogy by the Journal Gazette editorial staff, who wrote, in part: "In saluting William V. Sowers... we salute a great body of people, living and dead, who have given the community more than it can ever adequately acknowledge... The biblical admonition that 'unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required' undergirds a sense of civic responsibility epitomized by the volunteerism of Mr. Sowers... Fort Wayne is a much nicer place to live than it would be without the leadership of people like William Sowers."

Among his many legacies is a wonderful family. Bill is survived by his wife, Cornelia, and their daughter, Laura Manganiello of Nashville, Indiana and one grandchild. To his family, we express our deep sorrow.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Allen County Bar Association given public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the death of Bill Sowers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present at this assembly upon this occasion; and

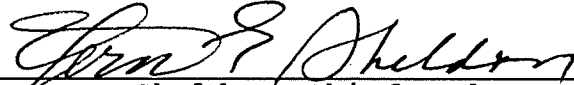
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Bar Association of Allen County to the members of the Sowers family;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the Courts of Allen County to evidence the respect and affection of the members of Bar and Bench for their departed friend, Bill Sowers.

DATED THIS 29TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1993.

Respectfully submitted,

ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



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Vern E. Sheldon, Chief Judge,  
Allen Superior Court



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C. Erik Chickedantz,  
Memorial Committee