

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JOHN E. WILLIAMS, SR.

We are here today to pay our respects to the memory of our distinguished colleague and friend, John E. Williams, Sr., who passed away on Monday, November 7, 1994.

John was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on November 10, 1909. He was a 1927 Fort Wayne Central High School graduate, where among his other accomplishments he was a city doubles champion in tennis. Following graduation from Central, he attended the University of Notre Dame on what was then referred to as the "3 by 3" program, which was a program in which students attended undergraduate school for 3 years and law school for 3 years.

Unfortunately, the Great Depression hit following John's first year in law school. Although deprived of the opportunity to graduate from the University of Notre Dame Law School, John's passion for the law would not be diminished and he engaged in self-education in order to complete his legal training. Giving witness to the skill with which he would later apply his talent in the legal profession, John took and passed the bar exam without ever having graduated from law school. He was thus included in what may have been the very last group of attorneys in the State of Indiana to be able to accomplish that feat. While pursuing his studies at Notre Dame, John also participated on the track team.

John spent virtually his entire legal career as a sole practitioner. He was associated in practice with his son, John, and Don Doxsee for 20 of those years. He also spent a good deal of time in land development, including heavy involvement in residential land development projects with Shirmeyer Corporation. During World War II, John served in the Office of Price Administration as the rent director in this part of the country.

John served this community as a Democratic member of the Allen County Election Board for a fifteen-year period during the 1950's and 1960's. Throughout the same period and into the 70's, John indulged his avid interest in golf at the Orchard Ridge Country Club, where he was the perennial first flight club champion.

In John's later years, he increasingly turned for relaxation (and a television channel where he could find Notre

Dame football games) to his cottage at Lake Wawasee and, of course, to his family.

John is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Ednell, whom he married on September 1, 1934, and by his three sons, John, Jr., Stephen, and Geoffrey. John will be long remembered as a well-respected and much beloved colleague. His devotion to his profession and his family will long be remembered by all who knew him. To his family, we express our deep sorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the death of John E. Williams, Sr.; 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 Williams family; and

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 the Bar and Bench for their departed friend, John E. Williams, Sr.

Dated this 21st day of November, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 

J. Michael Keefer
Vice President

By: 

The Honorable James W. Jackson