

CIRCUIT COURT, ALLEN CTY.
FILED
ROBERT D. HANSON, CLERK

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

1971 APR 23 AM 7 35

THE HONORABLE W. O. HUGHES

Mr. President, Members of the Allen County Bar Association, and my friends all.

This morning we are gathered here to pay our respects to the memory of a great humanitarian and noble jurist, the Honorable W. O. Hughes. Judge Hughes was born to the marriage of Peter Hughes and Elizabeth Clara Pletcher Hughes in the town of Wakarusa, Indiana on the 16th day of August, 1906. Judge Hughes learned sorrow and distress at an early age as a result of the death of his father when Judge Hughes was only seven years old. A strong-willed person, Judge Hughes was determined to make a success of his life regardless of obstacles and disappointments that he endured in the years to come.

Judge Hughes attended elementary school in Wakarusa, Indiana and he also graduated from the Wakarusa High School. Shortly after his graduation from high school he came to Fort Wayne and worked for a private corporation for a number of years. Judge Hughes, realizing the misfortunes that he encountered as a youth set his goals toward one sight, which was very dear to his heart, and that was the Boy Scouts of America. In 1927, shortly before the date he took unto himself a wife, he started his first active effort in being the foundation and the bulkhead of Boy Scout activities in the community.

Judge Hughes married Gala Studebaker on August 9, 1927. To this union there were three children born, Douglas, David and Daniel.

Judge Hughes was a very determined person and during the height of the depression he started his law practice in the early 30's. He had his first office in the Transfer Building. During the ensuing years Judge Hughes worked long hours so that he had sufficient funds within which to support his family. He became active in politics and was elected a Precinct Committeeman and Ward Chairman for Republican Party in the year 1938. He was elected to the Indiana State Legislature along with the late Judge Harold Korn, Paul Moellering, DeWeese, and the late Charles Bond. As a freshman Legislator he made tremendous gains and two years after being elected to the State Legislature he was made the Floor Leader of the House. He served on many committees during his terms in the Legislature, and was justly rewarded for his many accomplishments by being elected the Speaker of the House in the year 1951. In the year 1952 he was a candidate for Governor at the Republican State Convention. Judge W. O. Hughes remained in the State Legislature from 1939 thru 1959, during this period of time he made many friends and contributed an untold amount to the betterment of the Government of the State of Indiana. The Hughes Anti-Secrecy Act enacted in 1951 is a monument to his persistence and conservative thinking for the betterment of the people of the County of Allen and State of Indiana.

Judge W. O. Hughes was first elected Judge of the Allen Circuit Court in the year 1960, taking office on January 1, 1961; being reelected in the year 1966 and continued in office until he was called to his greater reward on the 23rd day of April, 1971.

Judge Hughes engaged in the practice of law in his earlier years with the late Guy Stookey; later formed the partnership of Hughes and Wyss, and this firm became later known as Hughes,

Wyss & Wright with offices in the Standard Building at the time he was first elected to the Judgeship in the Allen Circuit Court. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Indiana Bar Association, the Allen County Bar Association, the Indiana Judges Association, and in which organization he was elected the Fourth District Delegate.

Judge Hughes was also very active in the Boy Scouts of America and served in the Anthony Wayne Area Council as a Commissioner for the Boy Scouts for eight years. In the various phases of scouting his unexhausted efforts spanned a total of forty years. For his untold devotion to the Boy Scout program he was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, which is the Scouting's highest honor to a layman.

Judge Hughes was a member of the Bethany Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of the Masons, Scottish Rite and The Shrine.

Judge Hughes will always be remembered in the City of Fort Wayne to the Members of the Allen County Bar Association as a person of strong determination and insatiable desire for accomplishment; and above all, a strong duty, loyalty and devotion to his position as Judge of Allen Circuit Court. He was a person that could counsel as well as be sympathetic to the unfortunate individuals that appeared in his court. He will be missed by many persons and will be regarded as one of the foremost judicial leaders in the history of Allen County.

Judge Hughes deeply loved his family and in turn they loved him. He was survived by his wife Gala, two sons David and Daniel, a brother Charles, and two sisters, Mrs. Golda Smith and Miss Maude Hughes.

The Allen County Bar Association shall sadly miss him, his friendship and his counsel. We, the members of the Allen County Bar Association, are proud to remember him as a man, a citizen of great stature, that the law profession was his greatest and noblest of all professions.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of sorrow of its members upon the death of the Honorable W. O. Hughes; and

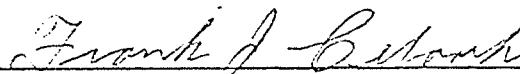
BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the courts of the County of Allen, State of Indiana, to evidence the respect and affection of the members of the Association for its departed brother.

WITNESS OUR HANDS AND SEAL this 27th day of April, 1971.

Respectfully submitted.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION by



Judge Frank J. Celarek

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Martin P. Torborg, Chairman
William L. Burger
Judge Frank J. Celarek
Dale J. Myers
Fred D. Schoppman
Edwin R. Thomas
Judge Jesse E. Eschbach
Clarence R. McNabb
Arthur W. Parry
Judge Louis L. Bloom

In the matter of the resolutions of Noble County, Indiana Bar Association in regard to Honorable W. O. Hughes, Judge of Allen County Circuit Court

Resolutions of the Noble County Bar Association ordered spread of record, to-wit:

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
HONORABLE W. O. HUGHES
JUDGE, ALLEN CIRCUIT COURT

CIRCUIT COURT ALLEN COUNTY,
ROBERT A. HAINSBOROUGH, CLERK
APR 7 11 09 AM '71

WHEREAS, Honorable W. O. Hughes, incumbent Judge of the Allen Circuit Court, Allen County, Indiana, ceased his judicial and earthly activities at 4:45 P.M., Friday, 23rd day of April, 1971, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, he has a host of judicial, legal and other friends and admirers in Noble County as well as in his adopted home Allen County and native Elkhart County, and

WHEREAS, the admiration by his Noble County friends was constantly augmented from the beginning of his legislative career in 1939 through 1959 and his judicial career beginning in 1960 and terminating with his decease, by his out spoken and effective efforts concerning public access to public records, restriction and encroachment on state sovereignty by the federal government for improvements and expansion in facilities at Indiana Girls School and the Sol Wood Youth Center, in Boy Scout affairs, in improving techniques and methods of juvenile court procedure and practice and,

WHEREAS, he has been serving as Judge of said Allen Circuit Court continuously since 1960 and during these years has fairly and judiciously administered the work of the Allen Circuit Bench and Bar with decisions that were very firm, very fair and very well reason, basing each case on merit and the individuals and circumstances involved and,

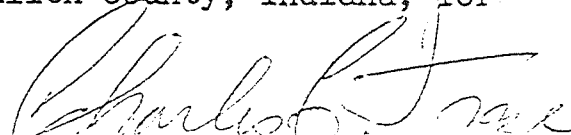
WHEREAS, he has been a powerful presence in important legal and community affairs for said years and his memory will continue into eternity in the minds of all his fellow workers, associates and dear ones, and,

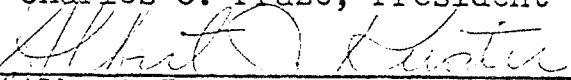
WHEREAS, the Noble County Bar Association has recognized W. O. Hughes as possessing the fine attributes of a man and lawyer as

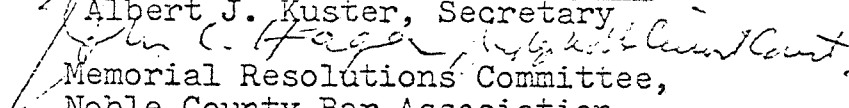
recited in the preamble of this resolution, and, whereas Noble County Bar Association desires to perpetuate these conclusions in the records of this Court and to convey the same to his native bar and family,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bar Association of Noble County, State of Indiana, at a special meeting convened in the Noble Circuit Courtroom for memorial services for said W. O. Hughes, that we adopt and do hereby adopt these, the foregoing, as our tribute to W. O. Hughes and that we establish it as our summation made at the conclusion of all the evidence upon the decease of W. O. Hughes as an illustrious and worthy member of our beloved profession.

Be it further resolved, that these resolutions be conveyed to his widow, and two sons, a copy be ordered entered for record in the Civil Order Book of the NOble Circuit Court and a copy be submitted to the Allen County Bar Association, Allen County, Indiana, for appropriate action.


Charles C. Frazee, President


Albert J. Kuster, Secretary


John C. Fager, Noble Circuit Court,
Memorial Resolutions Committee,
Noble County Bar Association

Dated this 27th day of April, 1971.