

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PHIL M. McNAGNY, JR.

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

The entire northern area of Indiana has been saddened by the untimely death of Phil M. McNagny, Federal Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. The Allen County Bar feels the grief especially deeply because we have always realized that our community played a large part in his early life and development. He lived in our community, went to high school in our City, enlisted in the Marines from Fort Wayne. He also had his home in Fort Wayne while attending college.

Although his father Phil, Sr. and his older brother Bill practiced law in Fort Wayne for many years, and Bill is continuing, Phil elected not to join them, but started his career with Wood and Wood in Angola. In 1953, he was appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana. He was only thirty years of age at the time. He served with distinction until 1959 when he left that position to join the firm to become known as Gates, Gates and McNagny. His wife Pat also practiced law with the firm.

In 1976, Phil was appointed to the Federal Bench where he served until his end. Phil was an excellent student, educated at the University of Virginia, the University of the South and Indiana University, and from the latter received his degree in law. Many of us who have practiced law in this area have faced Phil in court and found him to be an excellent lawyer, a good advocate and above


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all a true friend and always a gentleman. His untimely death at age 56 ended a period of service which gave every indication of great and valuable service.

On occasions like this, we wonder how disease could take one so young; one who lived moderately and always seemed to keep himself in good physical condition. The answer, however, is not for us to know.

Judge McNagny is survived by his widow, Patricia Gates McNagny, four daughters, his mother, two brothers and a sister. To all of them we extend our sympathy and join them in the loss we all feel. In this, I am reminded of the words of Charles Dickens: "When death strikes down the innocent and young, for every fragile form from which he lets the panting spirit free, a hundred virtues rise in shapes of mercy, charity and love to walk the world and bless it." Phil's spirit will walk with us and his memory will inspire us. Our loss is great and our sympathy is extended as well to our Whitley County neighbors.

Respectfully submitted
The Allen County Bar Association
Memorial Resolution Committee


Robert E. Meyers, Chairman

Dated: March 31, 1981