

*MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION*

THOMAS J. DIXON

WHEREAS, we meet today to honor our friend, mentor and colleague, Thomas J. Dixon, who passed away on January 6, 2016 at the age of 86.

As most of you know, Tom had terminal cancer. But what he died of first was a broken heart. Tom loved his family but, understandably, his first priority was always his wife of 62 years. I'm convinced his care and concern for Helen delayed the inevitable -- and delayed it long enough for him to see Helen complete her life.

After Helen's death, Tom crossed the finish line. He died about one month later. His love and respect for Helen comprised the ultimate love story.

Tom is survived by his sons, Tom and Jim Dixon. And by Tom's wife, Yvette, and Jim's wife, Susan. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Michael, Julia, Alex and Mackenzie.

Thank you all for gathering together today to celebrate Tom's life. Thank you all for your friendship and support for Tom over these many years

I want to extend a special "thank you" to all his lawyer colleagues. You need to know that Tom deeply respected the Allen County Bar members and he considered it a privilege to work with you. He spoke of lawyers as friends -- not just as work associates.

Tom supported the Bar Association actively throughout his career. At various times, he chaired the following Sections and Committees: the Grievance Committee, the Probate, Trust & Tax Section, the Real Property Section and the Social Security Section. In addition, he served as the liaison for the Bar Association with his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame.

Tom's illness was difficult, but in one important way it was a blessing. I say that because in his final year, his law firm had the opportunity to spend more time with him, and we took full advantage of that opportunity. We had many visits with Tom which included many meals and many meaningful discussions. Tom reminisced about his childhood growing up in Chicago. Tom was an only son, his mother died when he was only 10 and he was raised by his Irish grandmother, Rosie. We heard stories of him playing in the streets of his neighborhood with cousins; stories of his train rides to down-town Chicago, to his high school - Quigley Seminary Academy, and stories of his work as a teen as an Andy Frain usher at Blackhawk stadium and Wrigley field. And of course, he reminisced about his close friends -- and he had a boat load of them. Looking back, I will forever be comforted by the fact that our lawyers took every advantage of the short time we had left with him.

When I think of Tom, I think of many outstanding characteristics:

Dry humor: *As you may know, Tom had a dry, quick wit. It was a pleasing thing about his personality. He liked to push buttons. But even with the dry, and sometimes sharp wit, Tom's magic was that he poked but never offended. He always kept things positive. He had a keen sense of people's limits, so it always stayed fun and light. He was always sensitive to others.*

Impact he had on other peoples' lives: *Peoples' reaction to Tom's illness and his death has reminded me of how much people appreciated Tom and the things he did for them. What a feeling of satisfaction for me, his partner, when a complete stranger approached me at the nursing home and said "you don't know me, but I was one of Tom's clients for over 20 years -- he was a wonderful man." Or when people told me about all the special things Tom had done for them. Tom was a loyal friend to many--a friend people could count on in both the good and the bad times. He treated others like he wanted to be treated -- always. My knowledge of the positive impact Tom had on others is one of the special things that I will always remember about him.*

Wisdom: *To be sure Tom had a strong intellect. He was an accomplished, respected lawyer, a master of his craft and a voracious reader. But I would characterize his true strength as wisdom and good judgment. Our law firm could always count on Tom for rational analysis, practical solutions and good advice. For me, he often served as my barometer for sound decision making. He spent about a half hour in my office each day over his last six months and I got to know his skills up close and personal.*

Respect for Women: *Tom lived that lesson every day with his relationship with Helen. One quick story-- I already mentioned that Tom had enormous professional satisfaction as a lawyer. As a consequence, he rarely took his work problems home with him. He kept his frustrations to himself. But there was one day after work that he was the angriest I had ever seen him. It was so out of character for him. The reason was that a battered woman had come to see him as a new client at the office. To Tom, disrespect for women was among the worst of evils. For Tom, the importance of being a "gentleman" was paramount.*

Integrity: *Tom was acutely aware of the value of integrity—and he lived it, every day. He guarded his reputation. He earned the respect of his law firm, friends and clients -- and that respect was well deserved.*

Patience: *Tom was a remarkably patient man. He always approached life's daily problems with calm, logic and reason. In his dealings with his fellow lawyers —rarely were voices raised. Rather, he guided discussions with deliberate, thoughtful statements about right and wrong.*

Dedication to his Spouse: *Tom exhibited unconditional devotion and dedication to Helen. Throughout the unrelenting problems with Helen's health, Tom was ALWAYS there for Helen. He gave of himself tirelessly and always with remarkable patience. Tom took on*

many new roles late in life as the custodian for Helen. In addition to being the provider, he became the homemaker, the cook and the caretaker. Helen was always first in everything he did. His partners worried about Tom—we could see the toll this was having on his own health. But we knew our worries would fall on deaf ears. Helen would always be his priority. I'm convinced that Tom willed himself to stay healthy long enough to ensure that Helen was cared for until her death.

Tom's law partners and the local legal community will miss Tom. We thank him for the many life's lessons he modeled for us. He will be fondly remembered for his integrity, his ethics, his wisdom, his patience, his humor, his care and his indefatigable concern for Helen -- and the lasting impact that he had on the lives of all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of its sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Thomas J. Dixon

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be unanimously adopted by those present upon this occasion; and

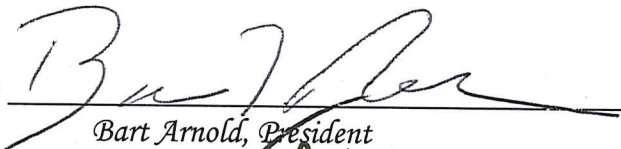
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted by the Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Thomas J. Dixon family; and

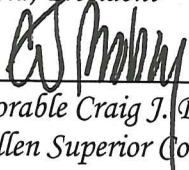
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the Federal and State courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of members of the bench and bar for their departed friend, mentor and colleague, Thomas J. Dixon

Dated this 29th day of July, 2016 at Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana.



THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 
Bart Arnold, President

By: 
The Honorable Craig J. Bobay
Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution prepared and presented by J. Philip Burt