

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

EDWIN R. THOMAS      August 7, 1902 - March 19, 1984

It is again with regret and dismay that we confront the fact that one of the "deans" of our bar, who practiced nearly 60 years - always able, always youthful, is gone. Edwin R. Thomas died on March 19, 1984 during his deserved winter respite in Naples, Florida. He was eighty-one years old.

We might, first-off, remember and recount the professional, fraternal, and civic accomplishments of this very outstanding man.

Mr. Thomas, a life-long resident of Fort Wayne, was a past president of the Allen County Bar Association, was engaged in the general practice of the law, in which he was both successful and esteemed, and had been a prosecuting attorney. He shared his offices, most compatibly and pleasantly with his friend, Byron Novitsky. As an attorney, Ed Thomas combined his great skill with consummate integrity, his great loyalty with the ability to communicate, and his caring for clients, with a love for the law and our community.

Nonetheless, some short time ago he retired - he looked forward to it, and enjoyed it. He had been known to express a concern as to "whether the law was to become more a business than a profession."

Our colleague loved the community and its affairs. He was a member and former moderator of the Plymouth Congregational Church, a long-time member and past president of both Quest Club and Rotary.

He was truly talented forensically, with his sonorous and bell-like voice. That made him formidable in the forums of litigation, but more than this, those of us who shared with him his beloved Masonic Orders (he was a member of his Blue Lodge, the Scottish Rite, Mizpah Shrine Temple - past potentate, and a 33° Mason), knew and heard and enjoyed the dramatic and moving power of his rhetoric - - few better than he.

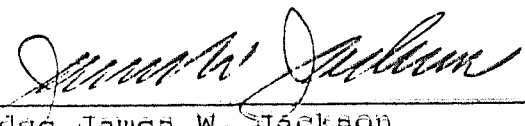
Edwin R. Thomas was an active man - from his athletic career in school (he was a varsity boxer and football player), and through all of the generations of his life he was fit and vigorous, and relished the thrill and joy and being youthful.

Urbane, gentle, and very handsome, it is fitting that he was surrounded by beauty and saw the beauty of people. His lovely wife Eileen, and daughters, Sharon and Janet, survive him, as do his grandchildren, to whom he was most devoted.

Robert Ingersoll, at his brother's funeral said, "He added to the sum of human joy" - and, Sir Thomas Gray, "And hie him home, at evening's close - to sweet repast and calm repose."

In any event, he is gone, and we will miss him - because we care for and appreciate his kind of honorable friend and colleague. It is moved that this memorial resolution be approved and adopted by the association, with appropriate copies to the court records, and to his family.

Respectfully submitted,



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Judge James W. Jackson  
and the Memorial Committee

JOURNAL -?

## Edwin R. Thomas, retired attorney

Edwin R. Thomas, 81, died at 1:45 p.m. Monday in Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Fla., where he was spending the winter.

Mr. Thomas, a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, was a retired attorney. He was a past president of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club and a past president of the Allen County Bar Association and of Quest Club. Surviving are his wife, Eileen M.; two daughters, Sharon Crimmel, of Naples, and Janet Franz, of Carmel; two sisters, Margaret Simpson, of Louisville, Ky., and Mary Lou Wright, of Fort Wayne; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 W. Berry St., with calling in the church's Mayflower Room after the services. Private burial services will be in Lindenwood Cemetery, 2324 W. Main St. Memorials to the church.

Pres of Bar  
Assoc - 80-51

NEWS - 3/21/84

**Edwin R. Thomas, 81**, of Fort Wayne, a retired attorney, died Monday in Naples (Fla.) Community Hospital. He had been spending the winter in Naples.

Mr. Thomas, a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, was a past president of the Allen County Bar Association, Fort Wayne Rotary Club and Fort Wayne Quest Club. He was a member and former moderator of Plymouth Congregational Church. He was also a member of Maumee Masonic Lodge 725, the Scottish Rite and Mizpah Shrine Temple and was a 33rd Degree Mason. He served as potentate of Mizpah Shrine Temple

in 1954 and was a member of Fort Wayne Country Club and Court 27, Royal Order of Jesters. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International in 1983.

Surviving are his wife, Eileen M.; two daughters, Sharon Crimmel of Naples and Janet Frantz of Carmel, Ind.; four grandchildren; and two sisters, Margaret Simpson of Louisville, Ky., and Mary Lou Wright, Fort Wayne.

Memorial services are 1 p.m. Saturday in Plymouth Congregational Church. The family will receive friends in the church's Mayflower Room after the service. Private burial services are in Lindenwood Cemetery. Arrangements are by Klaehn's Wayne Street Chapel, 420 W. Wayne St. Preferred memorials are gifts to the church or favorite charities.