

Memorial Resolution
Of the
Allen County Bar Association
Frederick R. Tourkow

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, Frederick R. Tourkow, who passed away on November 12, 2004.

Born in Smyrna, Turkey on September 6, 1918, Fred Tourkow was raised in Dayton, Ohio where he received his elementary through high school education. Fred entered the University of Dayton in 1934. Two years later Fred entered Georgetown University School of Law and obtained his law degree in 1939 at the age of nineteen. Since Fred was not eligible to sit for the bar examination until he turned twenty-one, he continued his education at Georgetown and received his L.L.M. in 1940 at the age of twenty.

Fred Tourkow was shortly thereafter admitted to the practice of law in the District of Columbia and in the State of Ohio.

In 1941, Fred interrupted his law career by enlisting to serve our Country in World War II as a Major in the Army Air Corps. While in the service and stationed in Fort Wayne, he met his wife, Leah of Fort Wayne and they were married on January 17, 1943. Following his discharge from the Army on December 25, 1945, Fred and Leah permanently settled in Fort Wayne, and Fred was admitted to the practice of law in Indiana in 1946. He began practicing law in Fort Wayne in April of that year, nearly sixty years ago. Fred and Leah have a daughter, Deborah Sheray, and two sons, Ralph and Josh. His wife, children and six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren all survive him.

Fred was the founder and partner of the law firm Tourkow, Crell, Rosenblatt & Johnston, retiring just a couple of years ago at the age of eighty-four. His son, Josh, practiced law with him for thirty years prior to Fred's retirement.

Fred exemplified service and leadership to his synagogue and community. He was a member and past President of Congregation B'Nai Jacob, past President of Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, Commander of the Fifth Region of the Jewish War Veterans of USA, past President of Allen County Veterans Council, Legal Counsel for the War Veterans Memorial Shrine, President of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA Jewish War Dead Museum, member of Sol D. Bayless Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, American Legion Post 82 and the American Bar Association. At the time of his application to the Allen County Bar Association (shortly after its incorporation) in 1959, he had already served in significant leadership roles in many of these organizations, and in others too numerous to list. All these roles underscore Fred's contributions of his time and talents to his community and his deep love of service to others.

Fred provided leadership to the legal and business community. He served as President of Northern Imperial Corp. and New Haven Wire and Cable, Inc. and was founder of Great Northern Life Insurance Co

His family, friends and colleagues will remember Fred Tourkow as a friendly, courteous and humble man who deeply loved the practice of law and the study of history. Fred was not only an outstanding lawyer and leader but also a devoted husband and father who dedicated his life to the service of his clients and community.

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 and death of Frederick R. Tourkow; 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 Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Tourkow family; and

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the Courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, Frederick R. Tourkow.

Dated this 14th day of April 2005.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 
Kathleen M. Anderson, President

By: 
The Honorable Stephen M. Sims
Judge, Allen Superior Court