

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR LEONARD "LEE" EILBACHER

Leonard "Lee" Eilbacher, a husband, father, grandfather, aircraft pilot, teacher, author, and excellent lawyer passed away December 1, 2020, in Venice, Florida, with his family at his side. He was 86. He attended Notre Dame, and graduated from Indiana University with degrees in Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1965.

Before completing his formal education, Lee was trained as a Naval Aviator in Pensacola, Florida, and served five years principally as an aircraft carrier pilot in various parts of the globe. He held a Commercial Pilot license with ratings for single and multiple engines, and was a Rated Flight Instructor in single engine aircraft and gliders. His love of flying continued as an active member of the Kendallville Soaring Club well into his 70's.

Lee was academically successful in law school, as an editor and writer for the Indiana Law Journal, and he continued to publish as a lecturer and teacher of trial tactics at the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum and National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He was admitted as a Fellow to the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and honored as a Diplomat of the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana. He was not only a good trial lawyer, with his premature white hair, he looked like a good trial lawyer. Lee's name appeared in the first edition of Best Lawyers in America and in subsequent editions during his years of practice.

He was a member of all relevant Bar Associations, and he was President of the Allen County Bar Association. He was a founder of the Allen County Bar Foundation. He was a senior partner in the law firm Hunt, Suedhoff, Borrer & Eilbacher, and after 32 years reduced his practice and affiliated with other highly qualified and well-regarded lawyers in Fort Wayne.

When Lee reduced his law practice, his interest in teaching took him to universities in Xi'an, China, to teach students conversational English through Global Volunteers.

Lee was also intensely interested in the Civil War activities of Huntington, Indiana, lawyer Lambdin Milligan. Milligan, a civilian, was tried by a military court which convicted him of conspiring to overthrow the state and federal governments. The initial sentence of hanging was later commuted to life imprisonment and eventually overturned by the United States Supreme Court. The case, Ex Parte Milligan, remains a landmark constitutional decision that limits military control over civilian affairs. Lee did a great deal of research which delved into Milligan's personal life. He visited Milligan's former home in eastern Ohio, and gathered a great deal of information from primary sources. He provided information that was incorporated into a book entitled "Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War" by Stephen E. Towne released in 2015. Lee organized his extensive research as if he were building a case file. However, his health cut short his goal to publish a book from his research.

Lee is survived by Jean Eilbacher, his wife of 63 years, daughters Lynn Eilbacher of Sarasota, Florida, and Rachel Meisner of Fort Wayne, son-in-law Christopher Meisner of Fort Wayne, two grandchildren, Delaney and Dylan Meisner, and a brother, Charles Eilbacher of Vero Beach, Florida.

WHEREAS, we shall miss him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Leonard E. Eilbacher.

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 Allen County Indiana Bar Association to the members of the Eilbacher family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread of record and become a part of the permanent online records of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and the Bar for their departed friend, Leonard E. Eilbacher.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2021 at Fort Wayne, Indiana

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



By: *Douglas Dormire Powers*
Douglas Dormire Powers, President

By: *Andrea R. Trevino*
The Honorable Andrea Renee Trevino
Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution presented by Sherrill W. Colvin

Resolution prepared by Sherrill W. Colvin, Judge William C. Lee, Arthur G. Surguine and Stephen J. Williams