

**A RESOLUTION BY THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF THOMAS H. HUMELSINE, ESQUIRE**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association have gathered in a special meeting on March 19, 2012, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Thomas H. Humelsine, who was called home by his Almighty God on February 26, 2012, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire and our tradition to share our recollections of Tom and honor him with a memorial resolution at this special meeting; and

WHEREAS, before offering this resolution, we want to offer a brief record of his life and career.

Thomas H. Humelsine was raised in Chambersburg, graduating from Chambersburg High School as president of his class. He went on to graduate from what is now Shippensburg University, and served in World War II, where he was wounded. It is believed from Bar Association records that Tom was the last surviving Bar member to be a combat veteran of World War II.

After his military service, he graduated from The Dickinson School of Law, now the Penn State Dickinson School of Law, and returned to Chambersburg to practice law. Tom was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on January 2, 1951, and to the Bar of Franklin County three days later, on January 5, 1951.

He spent his entire career in Chambersburg, in the town and the county that he loved. He was a solo practitioner for the bulk of his career, though from 1977 to 1984, he was affiliated with attorney David Rahausser. His office, like that of so many attorneys at that time, was in the old Chambersburg Trust Company building.

Tom's practice eventually centered on wills and real estate. He was the solicitor for Franklin County from 1961 to 1988, and also represented Mechanics Building and Loan for many years.

Tom was president of the Franklin County Bar Association in 1979 and 1980, having served as vice president from 1975 to 1978. During his first year as president, the Bar had 77 members, dues were \$90 a year, and the Bar's annual expenditures were just shy of \$7,500.

Tom was great friends with Edmund C. "Ted" Wingerd Jr.; the two ate lunch and played pool at the Chambersburg Club regularly. Tom also was a longtime member of the Chambersburg Country Club, and was somewhat active in local Republican politics.

Tom is survived by his wife, Louise; two daughters, Susan Brindle and Ann McBride; and five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. We join them in mourning his passing, but also in celebrating the relationships we had with him.

In the time since his death, Tom has been remembered by fellow Bar members on both a personal and professional level. Some cited his debonair attire, with his fondness for brightly colored sportcoats and white shoes. He was called a wonderful dancer and a good squash player. He also was recalled for his hard work, his clean desk and his willingness to help out younger attorneys. A word used often was "gentleman."

“As a young member of the Bar at that time and from out of the area, Tom always made me and my family feel welcome in the community,” said one Bar member. “Tom was a man of few words who was interested in getting things done...whether for his private clients or working with the county commissioners. He was always willing to help a young lawyer working at title searches, and never too busy to offer professional advice or just engage in friendly banter,” said another.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association express our sympathy at the loss of Thomas H. Humelsine, a husband, father, colleague and attorney at law. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those who have gone before us are the foundation for our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca S. Dempsey, President
Franklin County Bar Association