

**A RESOLUTION BY THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF PAUL F. MOWER**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association have gathered in a special meeting on August 16, 2006, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Paul F. Mower, who was called home by his Almighty God on August 14, 2006; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire and our tradition to share our recollections of Paul 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.

Paul was born on May 18, 1924, the son of the late Frank B. and Amanda (Frey) Mower. He was born at the Mowers' home at 325 East Queen Street, Chambersburg, and would in fact live his entire life in the family home.

Paul graduated from the former Chambersburg High School in 1942. He earned his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1948, then received his law degree from The Dickinson School of Law, now The Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, in 1951. He also was a graduate of the Cornell Midshipmen's School.

Paul was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on May 26, 1952, and to the Bar of Franklin County on June 20, 1952. He practiced law for 53 years, retiring on July 1, 2005.

The first line of Paul's obituary in the local newspaper really summed up his career: "Paul F. Mower, Esquire, 82, retired hometown attorney of 53 years...." Paul served his country in the Navy during World War II and went away to college, but he always returned to his hometown, and spent his life in Chambersburg doing what he loved — practicing law and helping people.

Paul won the respect of colleagues and clients alike by his willingness to help anyone who needed it and by maintaining his integrity in all his relationships. The day after his death, a number of his fellow Franklin County Bar Association members remarked on his dedication to the profession and to his clients.

One attorney said, "Kind, gentle, thoughtful and thorough are the first words that come to my mind when I think of Paul." Another said, "Paul was a rare breed of lawyer — careful, competent and meticulous." A comment from another attorney was, "Paul was one of the first attorneys I got to know after I was admitted to the Franklin County Bar. He was friendly, polite and courteous, and he made me happy that I was practicing in Franklin County."

While serving as solicitor for Greene Township for 32 years, Paul maintained a private

practice that evolved into primarily estate and real estate work. That type of practice may not be exciting to some attorneys, as one other colleague noted, but it was “close to Paul’s heart.”

For Paul, that colleague said, “It was not just a will; it was something important to the family. It was not just a business organization; it was a way to continue a family farm. It was not just doing title searches, it was a matter of making sure that land was developed for people’s homes or that the Greene Township Sewer Authority got a right of way to build a major project.”

Throughout his career, Paul practiced alongside several local attorneys, including William Davis, Joel Zullinger, John Walker, his Dickinson Law classmate John Keller, and John Nelson. He and Richard Hoskinson enjoyed a partnership that lasted nearly 27 years.

Paul’s commitment to his profession through his service in leadership positions with the bar association and the Franklin County Law Library Committee is simply unparalleled. Paul served as treasurer of the bar association for 18 years and as secretary-treasurer of the law library committee for an amazing 42 years.

His willingness to serve in leadership posts extended into the community as well. Paul served on the Chambersburg Board of Health for 29 years and the board of directors of Farmers and Merchants Trust Company for 18 years, as well as on numerous other civic advisory boards. He also was a member of First United Methodist Church in Chambersburg and of the Charles Nitterhouse VFW Post 1599 and Burt J. Asper American Legion Post 46, both in Chambersburg.

While the practice of law was a big part of Paul’s life, it certainly was not all of it. He was just as devoted to his family. Anytime he was asked about his family, a bar member recalled, “his face would always light up because he was proud of and loved his family.”

He and his wife of 53 years, Alice (Bigham) Mower, had three sons: Peter, who lives in Elizabethtown; Mark, of Chambersburg; and Michael, of Frederick, Md. He also has two grandchildren, Zachary and Maria, and two stepgranddaughters, Amanda and Ricki Jo. We join them in mourning his passing, but also in celebrating the relationships we had with him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association express our sympathy at the loss of Paul F. Mower, 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,

Forest N. Myers, Vice President
Franklin County Bar Association