

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

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association have gathered in a special meeting on December 13, 2007, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Thomas B. Steiger, who was called home by his Almighty God on December 8, 2007; 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 Bowles Steiger was born February 5, 1918, in Mercersburg, the son of the late Seth G. and Bernice (Bowles) Steiger. He was a 1935 graduate of Mercersburg Academy, where he was an Irving debater.

While attending Haverford College, he played goalie for the soccer team, which won the 1938 Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Soccer Championship. He was a hurdler on the track team and a Middle Atlantic States high hurdle champion.

After graduating from Haverford in 1939, he entered the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he joined the Sharswood Law Club. He earned his law degree in 1942, and was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on September 25, 1942.

While completing his law degree, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After finishing midshipman school in Chicago, he decoded dispatches for Admiral Nimitz's staff at Pearl Harbor, and later transferred to the USS Brooks. During 1943, he piloted landing craft for the first wave of Marines going into New Guinea. Ordered to gunnery school in Washington, he then became gunnery officer on the USS Cassin Young, which covered landings and air strikes across the Pacific. It was present at the sinking of the carrier Princeton on October 24, 1944, and served as a radar picket at Okinawa.

After the war, Tom returned to Mercersburg. He was admitted to the Bar of Franklin County on April 27, 1946, and opened his own law office, engaging in the general practice of law. He later was joined in his practice by his son, Thomas B. Steiger Jr., and Shawn D. Meyers. Over the years, he was solicitor for Peters Township, the Bear Valley Authority and the First National Bank of Mercersburg.

Tom was president of the Franklin County Bar Association in 1977 and 1978. He was leading the association when the Franklin County Legal Journal was first published in July 1977. He was chosen to receive the bar association's first Edmund C. Wingerd Jr. Memorial Award in 2002, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to his clients, his community and the profession of law.

Upon his passing, a number of his colleagues in the bar association shared their recollections of Tom. A few words were repeated again and again: A true gentleman. A dignified gentleman. A courteous and professional gentleman.

"He was 'old school' in the most positive way," one member said. Another agreed, saying, "He was at the top of that whole generation, among the very best. There are a few from that generation that I would put up on a pedestal, and he was one of them." Yet another said, "If he had lived in an era when

they elected their officers in the military, he would have been elected general.” Still another said, and it was repeated by many, “He was the kind of lawyer that made you proud that you were a lawyer.”

His partner, Shawn Meyers, became close to Tom in the dozen or so years they practiced together. “Upon joining the firm, his door was always open to me. He had the innate sense to combine firmness in his convictions with the ability to assert those convictions while being considerate of others. He kept attuned to all the cases being handled in the office and offered advice when he thought it helpful. He also showed great concern for our staff and their families. It was an honor to have had him not only as a partner but also a mentor. Always interested in learning and teaching others, upon returning from a trip to China, Norway or New England, Tom would describe the sights and events with great detail with the hope of giving you a glimpse into what he and Kitty, his beloved wife, had seen. I am grateful to have been able to practice law with him.”

Tom’s service to the community that helped earn him the bar association’s Wingerd Award extended beyond his law practice. Between 1947 and 1975, he coached varsity soccer at Mercersburg Academy, finishing with a record of 147 wins, 100 losses and 33 ties. He served on the academy’s Alumni Council for 21 years, and was a member of its Board of Regents for 16 years.

He helped establish and was a director of Fendrick Library in Mercersburg. He was a lifelong member of St. John’s Lutheran Church of Mercersburg, where he was a council member and taught the Loyal’s Sunday School class. He also served on the boards of Gettysburg Theological Seminary and the First National Bank of Mercersburg.

Tom never retired from the practice of law. He also was an active farmer, raising Hereford cattle on his Mercersburg farm until shortly before his death.

He and his wife, Katherine (Tippetts) Steiger, were married Nov. 23, 1946. He met Kitty at Mercersburg Academy, where her father was headmaster. The two loved to travel, and together took many trips throughout the United States and abroad.

Kitty Steiger preceded Tom in death in May of this year. In addition to Tom Jr., he is survived by three daughters, Katherine Mikszewski of Seattle, Wash., Victoria Olin of Philadelphia and Susan Klann of Denver, Colo.; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; one sister, Jane Wingerd of Mercersburg; and three nephews. 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 Thomas B. Steiger, 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,

Shawn D. Meyers
Memorial Resolutions Committee
Franklin County Bar Association