

RESOLUTION OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE C. EPPINGER

WHEREAS Almighty God called from us, our friend, colleague, fellow member, and esteemed retired President Judge of the 39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, George C. Eppinger, on Thursday, May 27, 1993 and, in keeping with the bylaws and traditions of our Association, we are met, to reflect upon the memory of his life and career, and to take such action, in regard to a resolution of memorial, with respect thereto, as deemed appropriate, by the Association; and

WHEREAS George had a long and distinguished career, as a lawyer and member of our Association, as well as a distinguished tenure of more than twenty (20) years, on the Bench of the Court of Common Pleas of the said Judicial District, which is now and, for most of his judicial career, was comprised of both Fulton and Franklin Counties, as well as an equally distinguished and even longer career of leadership, in community service, of various kinds, from Church to youth athletics, so numerous, we cannot hope to cover it all, thoroughly, within the confines of such a resolution as may respect his own humility and disdain for pompous ceremony; some of our reflections, nevertheless, are presented herein, as follows:

George was born in Champaign, Illinois, on April 20, 1921, and moved to Chambersburg, with his family, at the age of four years. He attended the Chambersburg public schools and graduated from Chambersburg High School in 1939. After that, he attended

the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, and received an undergraduate degree, in accounting, from that institution. Next, George served in the United States Army Engineers, for three years, starting in 1943, during the Second World War, much of this time, overseas, in enlisted status, and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. Returning to Chambersburg, George worked in accounting, for a short time, and then entered law school, again, at the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from there in 1949 and was admitted to the Bar that same year, with admission to the then Franklin County Bar, on September 27, 1949. George remained in private practice of the law, for a number of years, serving a four year term, also, as District Attorney of Franklin County, beginning in 1956. In 1965, George was elected Judge of the 39th Judicial District, and he entered that office, in 1966 and remained, for two full ten year terms, as President Judge, the entire time. George also served, for a time, as County Solicitor, for Franklin County, and was statewide Republican candidate for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in 1971.

We remember, especially, Judge Eppinger's starting of the Work Release program, for jail inmates, in Franklin County, one of the first places such a program was implemented.

We remember, also, his program of refurbishing and renovation of the older Court House building, a process which took several years and involved prisoners at Franklin County

Prison, as workmen. One result of that effort is the present main Courtroom, which has been spoken of, even by outside attorneys, as a Courtroom having one of the most attractive, and yet simple and utilitarian decors, in the entire state.

We remember, most of all, his clear thinking and quick witted sense of humor, both on the Bench and off. George was a man to insist on getting to the point, and received much respect, for doing so, with care and fairness.

Of special note, was George's founding of the Franklin Court, an orchestra comprised of workers from various offices of the Courthouse, conducted by a Court Crier, and even including some members of our Association, as well as the Judge, himself, in his case, as a fairly proficient cellist. This orchestra would, and still does, perform, during the warmer seasons of the year, on Friday noons, in open air concerts, held right in front of the Courthouse, much to the pleasure of passersby, on Main Street of the Borough of Chambersburg.

The Judge had significant part, also, in the founding of Franklin County Legal Journal, the planning for additions now existing, to the Courthouse, and the present Franklin County Prison. He was a part of the founding of the Public Defender system, in Franklin County, and a lot of other developments in the expanding judicial system, during the 1970's and '80's.

We remember that George led, also, by example. His participation in the YMCA and the Falling Spring Presbyterian

Church, as well as his having served as Moderator of the Carlisle Presbytery, of which Chambersburg is a member, and his participation in many other civic and charitable organizations and activities of the community illustrate this. Among these were things like leading the annual Memorial Day Parade, and other local veterans' patriotic activities.

Finally, we remember that George was always, first, an honest and a humble man, who never manifested any desire for public self acclaim, a man who was a diligent and able attorney at law, but disliked verbosity and the kind of legal language which abounds with "Wherefores" and "aforesaid," and one who would rather that this tribute to him, we are sure, be kept short.

NOW THEREFORE, the Franklin County Bar Association, in special meeting assembled, being saddened at the loss of our friend, mindful of the place of distinction he has molded for himself, without even making claim to it, in the history of our Bar, and desiring to preserve a written record to bear testimony to the high regard in which he was held, by his professional colleagues and others, do hereby resolve, on this 1st day of June, 1993, that we do hold the memory of George C. Eppinger, in high regard, for his friendship, professional expertise, and for his service, both to his profession and throughout his community, and do hereby express our deep sense of loss, as he will surely be sadly missed by his family, friends

and associates.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy thereof be delivered to his widow.

Dated: June 1, 1993

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE,

By

Kenneth E. Hankins Jr
Chairperson

Ph. N. Hankins
Member

Jo Jones
Member