

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
JUDGE ROBERT E. TEHAN  
January 7, 1905—November 27, 1975

Last Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1975, Judge Robert E. Tehan died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was 70 years old. These 70 years were crammed full of meaningful, creative activity. Judge Tehan was not a spectator to the evolving history of his time. He was an active participant in producing some of Wisconsin's most significant events.

Judge Tehan graduated from Marquette Law School in 1929. He practiced law during the Depression days and for a while was associated with his long-time friend, James E. McCarty, who is now Senior Bankruptcy Judge in Milwaukee. In 1936, Robert Tehan won election to the Wisconsin Legislature as a Democratic Assemblyman and then served continuously in the Wisconsin Legislature, first as an Assemblyman and then as a State Senator until he was appointed to the Federal Bench in 1949.

Bob Tehan believed deeply in our democratic form of government and perceived that the continued vitality of this system depended upon attracting into partisan politics intelligent, talented and highly ethical individuals. In the mid-40's, the Wisconsin Democratic Party was quite moribund. Wisconsin politics had been dominated by the Progressive Party under Philip and Robert LaFollete and the Republican Party. Bob Tehan took charge of the Democratic Party and worked to reorganize it into a significant force in our State. In 1945, he became the Democratic National Committeeman from Wisconsin and then he set out to recruit fine young people into positions of party leadership. The success of his efforts and their significance for both Wisconsin and the nation can be demonstrated by reviewing a list of some of his recruits, each of whom I believe would acknowledge the positive influence that Judge Tehan had upon his life and his public service career. These include Chief Judge Thomas E. Fairchild of this circuit, District Judge James E. Doyle of the Western District of Wisconsin, Chief Justice Horace Wilke of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Senator Gaylord Nelson, Congressman Henry Reuss, Congressman Clement Zablocki, and Mayor Henry Maier of Milwaukee.

After he was appointed to the Federal Bench, Judge Tehan gave up his active involvement in politics but he never lost his interest in this activity and the sharpness of his political acumen was attested to by the many national political reporters who always found time to touch base with the Judge whenever they were in Wisconsin covering the political scene.

On the bench, Judge Tehan exhibited the same fine qualities he had demonstrated in his earlier life. Those of you who knew him will remember that his 6'2", 200 lb. frame made him an imposing figure on the bench. He looked like a judge and he acted like a judge, a really great judge. In his court, while no lawyer or litigant would forget he was in the presence of a great Federal Judge, Judge Tehan would never forget that he and each lawyer and litigant were fellow human beings. His conduct reflected his realization that he had attained his position as a result of presidential designation and not by Divine Decree.

He was thoughtful and meticulous in the preparation of his opinions. I was his first law clerk and I know how careful he was both in deciding each case and in formulating each opinion. His record on appeals bespeaks the high quality of his work.

After his death, Wisconsin's newspapers printed many tributes to him. One of these by Miles McMillen of the Madison Capital Times summed up the Judge's character in this way:

"It is not easy to isolate and assess the qualities that made him such a compelling and magnetic person. There was a fine, subtle intelligence, a rollicking humor that rarely deserted him. Humility and compassion, to be sure. But underlying it all was the basic and unshakeable sense of decency."

Judge Tehan is survived by his wife, Louise, and two sons, Robert and James.

Now that he is no longer with us, we miss Judge Tehan. We shall remember him fondly and measure the quality of other judges by his standard.

Mr. President, I ask that this memorial be spread upon the records of the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH  
CIRCUIT HELD AT FRENCH LICK, INDIANA ON MAY 11 AND 12, 1976

The Annual Judicial Conference of the Seventh Circuit convened, pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code and Rule 15 of the Rules of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, at 8:30 A.M., Tuesday, May 11, 1976, in the Convention Hall of the French Lick-Sheraton Hotel and Country Club, French Lick, Indiana.

Present were:

Hon. John Paul Stevens, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Circuit Justice of the Seventh Circuit  
Hon. Byron R. White, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States  
Hon. William H. Rehnquist, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Former Circuit Justice  
Hon. Tom C. Clark, Associate Justice (Retired) of the Supreme Court of the United States and Former Circuit Justice  
Hon. Thomas E. Fairchild, Chief Judge  
Hon. John S. Hastings, Senior Circuit Judge  
Hon. Win G. Knoch, Senior Circuit Judge  
Hon. Luther M. Swygert, Circuit Judge  
Hon. Walter J. Cummings, Circuit Judge  
Hon. Wilbur F. Pell, Jr., Circuit Judge  
Hon. Robert A. Sprecher, Circuit Judge  
Hon. Philip W. Tone, Circuit Judge  
Hon. William J. Bauer, Circuit Judge  
Hon. William J. Campbell, Senior District Judge  
Hon. William E. Steckler, District Judge  
Hon. Julius J. Hoffman, Senior District Judge  
Hon. Cale J. Holder, District Judge  
Hon. William G. Juergens, Senior District Judge  
Hon. Robert A. Grant, Senior District Judge  
Hon. Edwin A. Robson, Senior District Judge  
Hon. Richard B. Austin, Senior District Judge  
Hon. James B. Parsons, District Judge  
Hon. S. Hugh Dillin, District Judge  
Hon. Hubert L. Will, District Judge  
Hon. Jesse E. Eschbach, District Judge