

FLOYD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1981- FCR 81-7

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF FLOYD

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Floyd is desirous of preserving in the records of the Board a fitting memorial to Paul J. Tegart, former Judge of the Floyd Circuit Court, who passed away on the 26th day of April, 1981; and

WHEREAS, on the 28th day of April, 1981, the Floyd County Bar Association, at a special memorial gathering for Paul J. Tegart, duly adopted a Resolution which memorializes, in a most fitting manner, certain facts concerning the personal life of Paul J. Tegart and his contributions, both public and private, to this community; and

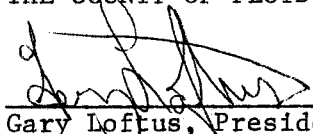
WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Floyd is desirous of having spread upon the records of the Board a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Floyd County Bar Association for the purpose of forever evidencing the gratitude of this Board for the services rendered by Paul J. Tegart to this community.

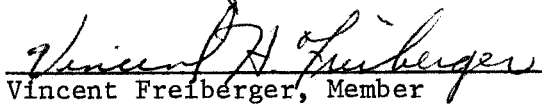
NOW THEREFORE:

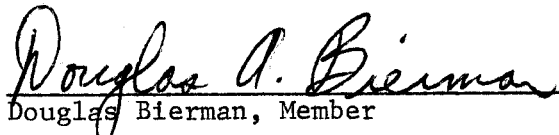
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auditor of Floyd County, Indiana, be, and she hereby is instructed to spread upon the records of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Floyd a true, complete and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Floyd County Bar Association on the 28th day of April, 1981.

DATED this 4th day of May, 1981.

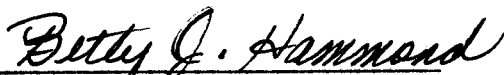
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF FLOYD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Loftus, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Freiburger, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Bierman, Member

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AUDITOR OF FLOYD COUNTY

HONORABLE PAUL J. TEGART

"This Was the Noblest Roman of them All."

"His life was gentle and the elements so mixed  
in him that Nature might stand up and say to all  
the world "This Was A Man".

The Floyd County Bar Association is met in special session today to memorialize our brother, the Honorable Paul J. Tegart, the Judge of the Floyd Circuit Court from January 1, 1953 to October 1, 1979.

The word of his death on April 26, 1981, spread a pall over the entire community for he was loved and respected by the entire populace of this county - to the people he had come to be known as the Peoples Judge.

Paul Joseph Tegart was born in the city of New Albany on April 17, 1910 a scion of an old respected Irish family.

He received his elementary education at the old Holy Trinity Grade School and then entered St. Xavier High School in Louisville from which he was graduated in 1928. Thereupon, he entered the University of Louisville and pursued a liberal arts course until the death of his father in his sophomore year. It then became necessary for him to take employment. It was the best of times and the worst of times. It was 1931 and the depression was on us. Judge Tegart was fortunate enough to secure a position as toll collector on the K and I Bridge. His hours were 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. six nights a week. He continued his education during day light hours, catch as catch could be, until September, 1935 when he enrolled in the Jefferson School of Law. For three years he attended law classes from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M., six nights a week and worked as toll collector from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. the same six nights. In June, 1938, there was conferred upon him the degree of Bachelor of Laws. That summer he passed the bar examination and entered upon the practice of law with the firm of Lorch and Lorch.

Statecraft, or politics, if you please, was always a part of Paul's fabric; perhaps it was his Irish heritage, and so it came about that he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of this Judicial District in November, 1940 and was reelected in November, 1942.

It was during his first term as Prosecuting Attorney that he met Marie Dixon of Jeffersonville, Indiana. This was the start of a beautiful romance as they were married in 1942 and the romance continued until his death this past Sunday. To this marriage were born eleven children of whom nine survive. This was a marriage of love, respect and devotion and each party being a bulwark one to the other.

Paul was not to complete his second term as Prosecuting Attorney because shortly after his reelection in November, 1942, he entered the United States Army as a private. This was World War Two and he did not return to New Albany until November, 1945. Upon his return to the City he resumed the private practice of law and of course, the art of politics. In May of 1946, he was elected County Chairman of his party and served as such until his election as Circuit Court Judge in 1952.

From January 1, 1947 until December 31, 1952 he served as City Attorney under the Honorable C. Pralle Erni, whom he had prevailed upon to run for the office of Mayor of our City.

In November, 1952, Paul was elected Judge of the Floyd Circuit Court and was reelected in 1958, 1964, 1970 and 1976. He continuously served as Judge until October 1, 1979 when he resigned because of the condition of his health.

It was this 27 years of service as Judge of our Circuit Court that gained him the stature that comes to very few.

His knowledge of history, his innate sense of justice, his deep feeling for those less fortunate, his compassion for those in trouble, his appreciation of the dignity of human beings, his belief that all God's children are equals, not only before the law but also in all walks of life, his understanding of the

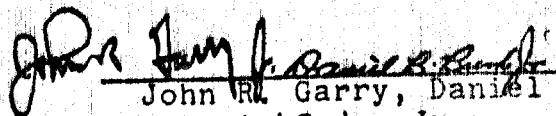
mores of our present civilizations, his love of this Country's culture and his guiding principle of equal justice to all citizens, these virtues combined as a catalyst to give this area truly a peoples Judge.

So today we publicly express our appreciation of Judge Tegart's service to this County and in a small measure attempt to convey our gratitude for 27 years of patience, kindness and tolerance extended by Judge Tegart to the members of this Association.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That our sympathy is hereby publicly expressed to his widow, his children and his grandchildren over the loss of a devoted and loving husband and father.
2. That our appreciation for 27 years of diligent and honest search for the truth and equal administration of justice by Judge Tegart be made a matter of record.
3. That the Judges of the Floyd Circuit, Floyd Superior and Floyd County Courts be petitioned to enter these Resolutions in the Order Books of their Courts.

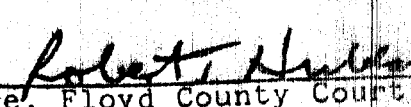
This 29th day of April, 1981.

  
John R. Garry, Daniel B. Burkhardt,  
John A. Cody, Jr.,  
Memorial Committee Floyd County  
Bar Association

Approved and ordered entered of Record this 29th day of  
April, 1981.

  
Judge, Floyd Circuit Court

Judge, Floyd Superior Court

  
Judge, Floyd County Court