

District Judge Juergens presented a Memorial Resolution of respect to the memory of Hon. Fred L. Wham, late Chief Judge of the District Court for the Eastern District of Illinois, which Memorial Resolution was unanimously adopted and spread of record and the Secretary of the Conference was directed to deliver same to the family of the late Judge Wham.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT TO THE
MEMORY OF
THE LATE HONORABLE FRED L. WHAM, SENIOR JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

It is my privilege to present this tribute to the late Judge Fred L. Wham, a tribute of affection and a tender of praise that is due to him.

Judge Fred L. Wham was graduated from the old Southern Illinois Normal University in 1904 and obtained his law degree at the University of Illinois in 1909. He not only worked his way through school but also became an all-star tackle on the Illini football team.

He first practiced law in Fort Smith and Fayetteville, Arkansas. He worked in the solicitor's office of the United States Department of Agriculture from 1915 to 1917. He later returned to Centralia to set up law practice with his brother Charles.

In 1927 President Calvin Coolidge appointed him as Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Illinois, which office he held until his retirement on March 4, 1956. He remained active as a Senior Judge until a few weeks before his death, accepting assignments throughout the United States. He died at the age of 82.

Judge Wham was a man of conviction. He was a practical man. He was a modest man. He seldom gave orders but preferred to lead, to persuade, and to inspire. He respected the intelligence and the abilities of those around him. He let his actions and achievements speak for him. He was a man of character and humility. He presented two faces to the world and both wore well. Off the bench he was quiet and unassuming; his manner bordered on the timid. On the bench he was a stern defender of the Federal Law. For the occasional sinner he always was ready with the lecture and the light sentence. A professional criminal could expect to have the book thrown at him. He was a great humanitarian and loved people and was always ready to go out of his way to help when it was possible for him to do so. In his deep devotion to the basic principles of our Constitution and our American way of life, he demonstrated statesmanlike qualities of leadership and applied his energies and his thinking to issues of great concern to our people and our country. He always regarded his judicial position as a sacred trust.

