Elkin Garfinkle was born in Nashville in 1895 and died here in 1982. His father was David Garfinkle and his mother was Sarah Klyman. He was the oldest son of twelve children.

At his death he was survived by his brother Dan Garfinkle and his sister Esther Skora Brandt, Rose Gelberman, and Juliet Averbuch.

Educated in public schools, he graduated from Hume Fogg High in 1919 and earned both the Valedictorian and Medalist Award.

He entered Vanderbilt University and on graduation in 1911 was awarded the Owen Medal. This ended a remarkable scholastic record. From the first grade through college, he was the number one student in his class each year.

During World War I, Elkin Garfinkle belonged to the Home Guard. He entered the Army in 1918 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. After the Armistice he was discharged and returned to the Home Guard. He was on the the founders of the American Legion in Nashville and served as Finance chairman for over twenty years. He was active in the 40 & 8 and belonged to the Masons and the Junior Order of the Eagles. He was a member of the West End Synagogue and was past president of the TSHA, now known as the Jewish Community Center.

After returning from the Army, Elkin Garfinkle began practicing law with W. R. Marr and later as a solo practitioner in the Old Michel Bldg. He put his younger brother Dan to work as office boy at age six. When Dan graduated from Central High he "read law" under Elkin's guidance. Upon certification by Elkin that the was proficient in law, Dan successfully passed the bar examination.

One of Elkin's abiding interests were politics; he considered it both a job and a duty of citizenship. He was elected a member and vice-president of the Nashville City Council, the Davidson County Quarterly Court, and served as chairman of the Democratic Primary Board.

He wielded considerable political influence in his political role. He was not always popular in his community, but he was respected.

For some twenty years, together with squire Bill Jones and later Jake Sheridan, they never lost an election.

A man of firm conviction, he always supported who or what he thought was best for the community. Even his bitterest political enemies respected him.

Elkin Garfinkle was much more than a successful politician, he was first and last a lawyer.

In his law practice he was regarded as one of the ablest and most capable lawyers in the State. He never entered into a lawsuit for which he was not fully prepared.

He held a high regard for the fairness of true justice and he would never scullify himself in abdication of his principles.

Elkin Garfinkle thought of himself as a lawyer, not a mouth-piece. He was best known for his willingness to help other lawyers and many sought his advice.

The Judges also solicited his counsel. He once sat as Special Judge the entire term of the Circuit Court because of the illness of Judge E. F. Langford.

In 1979 when he was awarded a certificate by the American Bar Association, Elkin said:

"I'll always remember fondly my association with other lawyers: ... They were a great bunch."

One of the most enjoyable events in Elkin's life was eating lunch with his colleagues. The round table at the Noel Hotel--as where he swapped stories with Jake Doyle, Jack Norman, Sr., Judge Charles and Leon Gilbert, Will Steger, Allen Ratter, Dave Morse, Tommy Dilbridge, and E. T. Odborn, Jr. and other friends would occasionally attend.

Elkin Garfinkle had a friendly smile and a warm handshake. He was a true gentleman and a cherished friend.

We honor him as a man because of his personal traits and his intellect; we honor him for his work because he perceived what was right and did it.

He was a just and upright man. He will be missed.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED That this resolution be adopted at this assembly of the Nashville Bar Association and be spread upon the Minutes of the Memorial Book of the Association and a copy to members of his family.

Jake Doyle
Bick LeHaden
Elmer Davies, Jr.
C. Allen High
Chairman

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