MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
BENJAMIN ROSKIN

I am told that Ben Roskin was known as Ben even though his name was Benjamin and that there were those who called him Benny. Often a person has several names that he is known by and one or another becomes the one that is most often used for many reason. The Rabbis of our tradition point out that there can be different names used for a person based on important criteria. For we read in the midrash (Rabbinic commentary): A person has three names. One is the one by which his parents call him. This is the name recorded on the birth certificate, and entered on all records that require the name. Another is the name by which he is known to the outside world. That is used by his relatives and by his friends. The third is the most important of all. That is the name which his deeds have procured for him. This is the name that truly records what the person was, what he accomplished and how he will be remembered.

There are many who will remember Ben Roskin: most dearly his wife of 18 years, Rita, and his brother David. He left few relatives, but many friends and many who know the names that he acquired in his life; an honest man, a self made man, a lawyer, and a man who worked for his community.

He was born in Brooklyn and came to Nashville at a young age. He learned early the values of hard work as he and his brothers had to work to help the family. He sold newspapers on a street corner and did whatever work he could find. He was in may ways like a father to his two younger brothers as they grew up. he had a keen mind. he went to the Wallace School and he became a lawyer, graduating from the Nashville Law School. He served his country in the Army working with Army intelligence during World War II.

He was an attorney for fifty one years, retiring just eight years ago.

He was known as a man who was honest and had a great love and respect for the law. As a lawyer he would help people who were needy and could not pay for his services. He truly heard their pleas for assistance. He worked for thirty five years in his office in the Stahlman Building.

He was best known for the years he worked with Mayor Ben West. He was active in campaigning and raising funds for his candidate. He was the city attorney for Ben West when he was mayor for twelve years. He did so many tasks for the mayor. he was a person who was in many ways perfect for public service. He had a mind that understood the law. He would say how he believed the law was fair and it was the first love of his life. He was known to be a man of honest and integrity and a true friend. He was not loquacious. He would use few, but well chosen words to express himself and if he said something there was a reason behind his words. he had a strong code of personal ethics and a sharp mind. He had a great deal of energy. Some of those characteristics we find lacking in many of our politicians today. He was so close to Ben West that in later years when the former mayor was in a nursing home, Ben Roskin went to visit him. He was like family and bought Ben West Jr. his first rocking horse.

He was a man who was active in community organizations. He was a friendly man. He wanted every one he met to be his friend. If he had a disagreement with some one, he felt that it always could be worked out. While it has been said many times, he really believed that if he or anyone could not say something good about someone, it was better not to speak at all. he was easy going and fun to be around. he liked to go out. He was active in the fraternal organizations. He loved the Masons and the Al Menah Shriners.

he was the captain of the Provo Guard. He was so proud of the work of the Shriners' Hospitals and would go out to raise funds for them. He wrote the charter for the Akiva School.

He had artistic interest as well. he was a thespian and acted in several productions of The Circle Players including The Crucible and Say Darling. He also helped on their publicity. He was proud of the fact that he was able to do for others. He did not worry about material things.

During the last years of his life he suffered with lymphoma, a serious disease. However, he did not show paid nor complain as might have expected for a person with such a serious illness.

He was a man who did not marry until late in his life. He loved Rita and put her on a pedestal. He was proud of everything that she did. He was loved by a woman who was totally devoted to him, during their entire marriage, and especially so when he became ill. In the hospital she would not leave his side. She made certain that he received the best care.

The names and terms of praise that others will use when the speak of him are many. he was a man of ambition, a man of determination and man of integrity who worked for the community and loved humanity. Those are the honorable names he earned in his life.

The committee, composed of the undersigned, makes motion that this Memorial Resolution be accepted for enrollment on the minutes of the Memorial Resolution Book kept for that purpose in the office of the Clerk and Master's Office for Davidson County, Tennessee and that a copy of be presented to the family of our deceased colleague. Done this 1st day of November, 1996.

DONALD ARKOVITZ

DAVID C. RUTHERFORD

PAUL R. WHITE