

RESOLUTION

JOHN LEONARD SISK

Leonard Sisk was born in Giles County, Tennessee, August 17, 1899, where he attended public schools and obtained his elementary and high school education. On his eighteenth birthday, Leonard enlisted in the U. S. Army and served thirteen months overseas during World War I in the 114th Machine Gun Battalion of the 30th Division. He was wounded in action and was awarded the Purple Heart. In later years he was a leader in Veteran's organizations and in civic affairs. During World War II, he served on the Davidson County Draft Board as a Major in the U. S. Army in charge of Procurement for Tennessee and, after a course in Military Government at Harvard University, he was assigned to the School of Military Government for Civil Affairs of Occupied Territory in Europe.

Upon being discharged from military service, he was employed in April of 1919 as a Power Salesman for the Nashville Railway and Light Company and was in due time promoted to Manager of the power sales department of the Tennessee Electric Power Company, successor of the Nashville Railway and Light Company. When this utility became the Nashville Electric Service, Leonard was elevated to the office of Assistant General Manager in 1939 and was elevated to the responsible position of General Manager in

1951, in which capacity he remained until his retirement July 1, 1967.

The above summary of his military and occupational background is a clear indication that Mr. Sisk had little time for the pursuit of a legal career; yet, he was qualified to do so with a law degree and a license to practice. His membership and active interest in the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Association manifested his interest in the legal profession. He was well known to and admired by the membership of both Associations. His capacity to become an outstanding practitioner was revealed by his participation in the legal affairs of the Public Utility which he served as an executive. He used this as a choice outlet for his legal education and his conferences with the legal counsel for his employer revealed his latent concern and ability in legal affairs.

In addition to the above qualities of leadership, other noteworthy characteristics were apparent to his on-the-job and off-the-job friends. The phrase "on-the-job friends" is particularly applicable in this memorial to Leonard Sisk. Although he humbly maintained the dignity of his executive position, he never permitted his job-rated superiority to obscure the friendly relationship that he enjoyed with his associates. He made it clear that he preferred to be considered as their co-employee, regardless of rank. This trait of personality and humility also prevailed with his friends who were not co-employees.

Notwithstanding his other achievements, the highlight of his life was his family, Margaret Richardson whom he married January 21, 1944; Mary Ann (now Mrs. David L. Drumel) and Johnny. The latest family jewel, Mary Elizabeth Drumel arrived July 17, 1971. There is no power of expression to adequately describe Leonard's devotion to them and, although any attempt to do so would be a mockery, it is fitting to memorialize a few of this father's gestures or expressions. It would be a classic understatement to say that his daughter, Mary Ann, was the "apple of his eye". She wholesomely shared this blessed relationship with his grand-doll during the latter year of his retirement. His parental leadership, philosophical concern and love for his son Johnny are reflected in a series of meditations that are contained in letters he wrote to him over a long period of time. He kept a brochure of these letters and they cover many interests of life for a growing boy and man, such as courage, work, love, religion, sportsmanship, character, etc. Throughout these epistles Leonard's personality is beautifully but unconsciously portrayed.

He was a member of Emanuel Baptist Church. As has been said of someone else, Leonard LIVED all of his life. Someone else said of him: "his most wonderful promotion was September 30, 1972", the date of his death.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Nashville Bar Association on this occasion that the life of John Leonard Sisk be memorialized with this resolution and that his memory be perpetuated by enrolling it with the permanent records of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles G. Blackard

Harry L. Mittwede

Don R. Binkley

Roy A. Miles, Chairman