ALFRED TENNYSON LEVINE:

Excellent lawyer, speaker, and outstanding civic worker and citizen of our fair city, Alfred Tennyson Levine, Sr., was a man who loved people, who counted his friends in the thousands, and who had no enemies. We are proud today of the opportunity to honor his memory.

Alf Levine was born February 17, 1882, in Nashville, where he was destined to be reared, to live a full life, and where he finally died. His father, Jake Levine, and his mother Emma Levine, were fine, well-to-do citizens of our city, and they afforded their oldest son the very best education available. He first attended the public schools of Nashville, and then entered and was graduated from the Bayliss Military Academy. Thence to Vanderbilt University, where he attended the Academic School for a short time, and was then graduated from its Law School with an LLB. Degree in 1902.

It was at Vanderbilt that Alf first began to display those traits which later characterized his life. Even then, he was a great organizer, a good mixer, and a man who loved and was loved and admired by all of his associates. He helped to organize the Glee Club at Vanderbilt; he was a charter member of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Upon his graduation from Law School, he was still under the age of twenty-one years, and in order that his legal career might not be delayed, he applied for and received from the Supreme Court of Tennessee a special dispensation to practice law. He first entered practice in the office with then District Attorney-General, Robert Vaughn. After a few years, he opened his own law office, and practiced alone, until 1913, when his brother, Wendell, graduated from Vanderbilt, and they formed the firm of Levine & Levine, which continued throughout the years, until his death. In this association, he was proudly joined in 1933 by his son, Alfred Levine, Jr., who in that year also was graduated from Vanderbilt University.

Alf Levine, throughout his life, was affectionately known as "Major" and he justly earned the title. In his youth and early manhood, there was every indication that he might become a military man, but he later forsook all of this to devote his entire time and energy in the practice of law. An incident which occurred early in his life is indicative of this man, of his character and the manner in which he was brought up. In 1898, at the age of sixteen, he suddenly decided that he should be fighting in the Spanish American War, thereupon enlisted in a local unit which was leaving for battle. Marching to the railroad station, his father received news of this occurrence, and promptly had Alf arrested, and placed in jail, where he remained until the Military unit had left the city.

In 1908, Alf Levine organized, and was the first captain of that unit of the Tennessee State Guard known as the "Nashville Grays." This unit was the Honor Guard of the Governor of Tennessee. Later he was commissioned in the United States Army as a Disbursing Officer, and thereafter was retired with the rank of Major. In World War I he served as a Minute Man.

On March 3, 1912, Alf Levine was married to Ida Beard of New Orleans, a young girl whom he met in Boston, Massachusetts, while upon a military assignment, and while she was traveling there with her father, who was a noted physician. They had two children, Alfred Levine, Jr., who was associated in the practice of law with his father, and Emma Beard Levine Woods. Mrs. Woods has two sons, Joe Ray Woods and Alfred Patrick Woods.

Alf Levine had a goodness and nobility of character that endeared him to countless thousands. He verily believed that man should love and never hate his fellow man, and that it was as necessary to treat with kindness and consideration one's enemies as one's friends, and by this creed he lived. He was a staunch and steadfast friend, a loving son, husband and father.

It may be significant that in his lifetime, Alf Levine built only one home, and there
he lived happily for more than forty-five years, until his untimely death. For almost the same length of time, he had one law office. He was the first tenant in the old Fourth and First National Bank Building, and there he maintained his office until the end. During all of that period, he never missed a day at his law office because of sickness, until his last fatal illness.

Alf Levine was recognized as one of our most talented after-dinner speakers. He had that rare ability of being able to keep people entertained by the mere use of words, and his popularity in this respect is attested by the fact that during practically all of his life, he would average speaking as often as two or three times a week.

Alf Levine was a Corporation or Civil Lawyer, as distinguished from a Criminal Lawyer. During his life, he represented a vast number of clients, and was general counsel for an exceptionally large number of associations and corporations. He represented them well, and, of necessity, was involved in a great deal of important and extensive litigation, although he believed in, and adhered to the philosophy that it was far easier and better to keep his clients out of trouble, than to get them out of trouble in the Courts after the difficulties arose.

Among others, he was General Counsel for the Tennessee Hotel Men's Association, Tennessee Pail Men's Association, and Tennessee Dairy Products Association. He was Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, and Past President of the State Elks, a Past President of both the Nashville Exchange Club and the Tennessee Exchange Club. He helped to organize the old University Club. He was a Mason, and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He belonged to the So What Club, Shamus Club, Pudding Stone Club, and others too numerous to mention.

One of his finer achievements, and one which will serve as a lasting tribute to his memory, was the creation of the "Sunshine Special," for the Exchange Club. So worthy and so popular did this annual excursion become, that it was adopted by the Exchange Clubs throughout the country, and still later, Alf Levine was honored as the originator of this idea, on a coast-to-coast broadcast, when he was presented a gold watch by Kate Smith.

Here was a truly devoted man - devoted to law, devoted to his friends, devoted to life. He has now entered the Peace of Life Eternal, yet still lives with us in the many acts of kindness and of goodness that he performed, and he still lives in the hearts of those who cherish his memory.

J. C. Edwards,
Geo. H. Armistead, Jr.
Louis Leftwich, Jr.

COMMITTEE.

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