

ORDER FILED & ENTERED	<u>5/2/91</u>
MINUTE BOOK	PAGE _____

R E S O L U T I O N

John L. Draper was born January 25, 1901 in the Goodlettsville community, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Draper.

He was educated in the local grammer school, Wallace University School and graduated from the Vanderbilt Law School in 1924.

He began the practice of law in the Courts of Davidson County, Tennessee with Alf and Wendel Levine.

In 1929 he was elected to the old Davidson County Court from the Goodlettsville District and presided over a Justice of the Peace Court until 1937, when he was appointed by the Governor to be one of the Judges of General Sessions Courts, when they were first created.

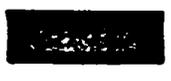
In 1931 he was married to Helen Scott. Mrs. Draper died in 1979.

He served as a Judge of the General Sessions Court until 1960 when he was appointed as Judge of Division Two of the Criminal Court of our county.

He continued to serve in this capacity, through two later elections, until his retirement in 1982 at the age of eighty.

After his retirement he remained active as a Special Judge, assisting the regular judges with their over crowded dockets, until shortly before his death on January 13, 1990.

In addition to his professional and judicial duties,



Judge Draper was deeply involved in the activities of his church, the Civitan Club, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the civic affairs of his native community and the local and state Bar Associations.

John was called by a concurrence of circumstances to a brilliant future as a citizen, a churchman, a lawyer and a judge.

It has been said that a child grows up in a field called a family and John was nurtured in a fertile field. His appearance told one immediately of his origin. Simple frank and plain in manner, it said that he was a sandy haired product of a rural life.

The son of a plain, good and hard working farmer, and a devoted mother, he inherited a mild and modest nature; a natural heart of compassion; an indifference to the hardships of want; a strict and demanding integrity; and a simple belief that one had to work hard for success.

He learned early that success was not so much a destination, but a journey and he set out early, armed with an unending patience in the pursuit of excellence. He denied that one was entitled to it without the total expense of honest effort and steady will. He arranged the obligation of each duty with a skill enforced by a deep sense of sincerity. He found assurance in his contempt for idleness. He was early locked in the conclusion that hard work would be rewarded.

In this fashion and with these ideals he made his way through the hardships and obstacles of his youth, with his head high, his purpose fixed and on a steady course. No hardship, no

set-back, no disappointment, could diminish his determination to reach his goal. The pursuit of his aim was relentless.

With all this he had a thirst for knowledge that allowed his mind to prove its worth. Constant study gave a zest to his curiosity, without ever satisfying it.

The Judge was a deeply religious man, but he did not flaunt his faith. He rested his soul on the bare words and promise of God, and in so doing, not only enjoyed the repose, but the vigor and decision of a satisfied assurance. He had crossed the sea of doubt and stood on solid rock in this regard. His entire life was spent as an obligation to his God, his Mother and Father, through simple goodness. He found complete faith in its consequences.

For more than 66 years Judge Draper shared these lessons of life, these accomplishments, these ideals and this integrity with our community, in public service, at the bar and on the bench.

A quiet and unostentatious man, he presided over his court in a manner that invited confidence, respect and the ease of lawyers and litigants. His sense of courtesy and patience made them comfortable. He was quick to protect all from the unjustified barbs that often come from the heat of courtroom controversies, and to soften the rhetoric of impassioned outbursts.

Those obligated to be there trusted his sense of fairness.

He offered all the freedom of expression, but only so

long as that expression was limited to the accepted boundaries of truth and good taste.

When these limits were transgressed, common sense ignored, spurious argument insisted upon, the realms of decency invaded or decorum threatened, he was quick with his gavel, and just as quick with his tongue.

He never dodged the judicial obligation of sternness where sternness was required, but he greatly disliked the necessity for such resolution.

His personal good nature and sense of humor helped to avoid such confrontations, to keep animosities in check and to keep trials on an easy course.

He was a gentle and effective arbitrator of uncontrolled passions.

It would have been impossible for John Draper to have worn a mask of pretense, - the real man was always to be seen, - just as he was.

His entire life sheds light on personal propriety, and his shade still affects his contemporaries. He touched the secrets of our inspirations and resolves.

He was as tender as a good woman, and yet, true as steel, overflowing with generosity, kindness, - utterly devoid of selfishness and trusted as much as he was trusted.

In all of this I have simply said that John was a good man and a just Judge. No man can win the honor of a greater appellation.

As both a lawyer and a Judge, he never stopped his

of study of the law.

His long experience continuously evidenced his search for the truth in the courtroom and he was rarely overruled by the Appellate Courts.

In conclusion, no verbal portrait of John Draper would be complete without recognition of the contribution of his wife, "Miss Helen," as we lawyers knew her.

For almost all of his adult life she gave him the love, the pleasant home life and the support and loyalty of a good wife.

In addition to this, she gave her exceptionable talents to his professional work as an excellent and able court reporter. They worked as a team in the administration of justice. She earned the right to share in the honors won by her distinguished husband.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved, by the Nashville Bar Association, in regular session at its annual Memorial Exercise:

(1) That we, his professional colleagues and contemporaries, do by these means, sincerely express our great sense of loss of his death.

(2) That we further express our appreciation of having had the opportunity to know him, to work with him and to have had the great pleasure of his friendship.

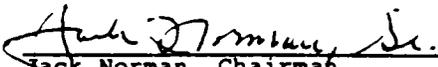
(3) That we further express our recognition of his great contribution to our system of justice; for the credit which

he brought to our profession, and to the bench, and for the high standards he espoused.

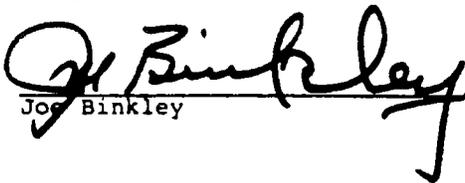
(4) That a copy of this Resolution be entered upon the permanent Memorial Book of our Association, and that a copy be forwarded to Mr. Marshall Draper, Jr., his only surviving relative, and a copy to his devoted friends, Mr. & Mrs. David Beach.

Enter this November 29, 1990.

Introduced by,


Jack Norman, Chairman


Judge Raymond Leathers


Joe Binkley