

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

NO. 01-

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO  
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE DEATH OF  
JOHN C. DECKER

RESOLUTIONS OF COMMITTEE

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF SAID COURT:

On the 11th day of May, 2001, the Honorable Clinton W. Smith, President Judge of the 29th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appointed the undersigned Committee to draft Resolutions memorializing the life of John C. Decker, Esquire, and to submit the same to the Court on or before Friday, June 22, 2001.

The undersigned Committee submits the following Resolutions for your Honorable Court's consideration:

1. John C. Decker was a lifelong resident of Lycoming County. He was born in South Williamsport on September 27, 1915, the son of the late Oliver J. and Eleanore Dawson Decker. His father was admitted to this Bar on October 27, 1902 and was president of the Lycoming Law Association in 1928.
2. Following his graduation from Williamsport High School, John

C. Decker attended and was graduated from Bucknell University in 1936 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1940 he was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with a Juris Doctor degree.

3. John was admitted to practice in 1941 before the several courts of Lycoming County. He practiced law with his father until 1942 when he entered the service of the United States Army during World War II and attained the rank of Captain. Upon discharge from the Army in 1946, John resumed the practice of law. In 1949 he was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association since 1942 and President of the Lycoming Law Association in 1977. In addition to practicing law he was an instructor in Business Law at the Williamsport Area Community College.

4. John was married in 1944 to the former Elizabeth Anne Talley. They had two sons, John Frederick Decker and William Alexander Decker. His wife died on August 6, 1955 and John became a single parent for his two sons who were only three and six years old at the time of his wife's death.

5. He was a lifelong and dedicated member of Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, serving variously on the church council, in choirs and music ministry, and teaching adult Sunday school.

6. John was devoted to Bucknell University and his fraternity, the Alpha Phi Chapter of Kappa Sigma. He served as Trustee of Bucknell University from 1954 to 1959.

7. John was a devoted member of many Masonic orders. He was a member of Ivy Lodge No. 397 F.& A.M. He was very active in the Valley of Williamsport Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite where he was noted as an outstanding baritone in the choir and an exceptional thespian in degree work. He received his honorary 33rd degree in 1972. He was past High priest of Lycoming Royal Arch Chapter No. 222; past Thrice-Illustrious Master of Adoniram Council No. 26; past Commander of Baldwin II Commandry No. 22; member of Williamsport Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, and received the order of the silver Trowel.

8. He participated in leadership of civic organizations including the Lycoming County chapters of the National Council of Churches and American Cancer society. He was a member of Kiwanis, the Lycoming County Historical society, the Tiadaghton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Williamsport Stamp Club and the Williamsport Drama Club.

9. John C. Decker died unexpectedly at his home on April 12, 2001. He is survived by his two sons, John Frederick Decker of Williamsport and

William Alexander Decker of Des Plaines, Illinois, their wives and his three grandchildren.

10. John C. Decker was a scholar. He was a respected member of the Bar of Lycoming County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned, joined in by the Lycoming County Bar, do hereby recognize the passing of John C. Decker and remember his many contributions to our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the passing of John C. Decker there has been a loss to the Bar of Lycoming County of an able and conscientious member who upheld the highest traditions of the legal profession, to the community of a useful and valued citizen, to his family of a kind and loving father, grandfather and father-in-law, and to his friends and acquaintances, of a fine gentleman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these Resolutions and statements be spread at length upon the Minutes of Your nonorable Court with copies sent to the sons of John C. Decker, and be published in the Lycoming Reporter.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Court and the Lycoming Bar extend to John C. Decker's children, grandchildren, and daughters-in-law a deep and heartfelt expression of sympathy.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Askey, Chairman,

William E. Nichols, Jr.

Charles A. Szybist

Robert C. Wise

John C. Youngman, Jr.