

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF A :
COMMITTEE TO DRAFT : 02-00374
RESOLUTIONS IN THE DEATH :
OF J. FREDERICK GEHR, :

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 13th day of March, 2002, in consideration of the Resolutions presented by the Committee appointed to draft Resolutions in the death of J. Frederick Gehr, Esquire, the said Resolutions are adopted and it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the Resolutions herewith submitted and attached be adopted as an official expression of the Lycoming County Bar Association and this Court; and that the same be spread upon the records of the Court; and that copies of this Resolution be delivered to the widow, children and sister of J. Frederick Gehr, Esquire; and it is further ORDERED and DIRECTED that said Resolutions be entered at large and upon the record of the Court, and that they be printed in the **Lycoming Reporter**.

BY THE COURT,

Clinton W. Smith, President Judge

Kenneth D. Brown, Judge

William S. Kieser, Judge

Nancy L. Butts, Judge

Dudley N. Anderson, Judge

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF LYCOMING COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

NO: 2002-00374

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE
TO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE DEATH OF

J. FREDERICK GEHR

RESOLUTIONS OF COMMITTEE

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF SAID COURT:

On March 4, 2002, 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 J. Frederick Gehr, Esquire, and to submit the same to the Court on Wednesday, March 13, 2002, at 4:00 P.M.

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

1. J. Frederick Gehr was born on April 5, 1910, in Erie, Pennsylvania, the son of Rev. Dr. George F. and Mary L. Pansing Gehr.
2. Following his education in the Wilkerson and Bethlehem public schools Mr. Gehr graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1932 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. In 1935 he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

3. Having graduated from law school in the midst of the Great Depression Mr. Gehr decided to accept employment at the Traveler's Insurance Company as a claims adjuster. He first worked in Reading but accepted a transfer to Williamsport upon the condition that the transfer to "the sticks" be for the limited period of two (2) years. However, he met Margaret Reeder while here and never returned to the southeast.
4. During World War II he served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy performing duties in Boston, Massachusetts and Barber's Point, Hawaii. He entered as an Ensign in March of 1943, and was discharged as a Lieutenant in November of 1945.
5. After the war Mr. Gehr decided to open a private practice and asked Judge Larrabee for advice on a location that would be prosperous. The Judge recommended Hughesville and Fred opened his office on February 1, 1946.
6. Fred was admitted to practice before the several courts of Lycoming County and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Lycoming County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. He was the President of the Lycoming County Bar Association for the year 1966. He was an attorney in the Hughesville area for 44 years from 1946 to 1990 when he retired. He was a member

of the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Decedent's Estates. Mr. Gehr served as Solicitor of the Hughesville School District, which later became the East Lycoming School District, from 1948 to 1980, a period of 32 years. The Pennsylvania School Board Association recognized him with an award for outstanding service to Education as the Solicitor of that District.

7. He was an active member of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hughesville where he served as adult Sunday School teacher, member of the church council, long term member of the church choir, a member of the board of social ministry, board member of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary and the parliamentarian of the Lutheran Synod.
8. His fraternal affiliations included the Muncy Lodge, 299 F&AM where he was a former trustee and Past Master. He was a member of the Williamsport Consistory serving as degree master for the 18th degree and as Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix. He received his honorary 33rd degree in 1971 in Philadelphia.
9. Within the Hughesville community he was past president of the Rotary Club where he was a member for 48 years. He was the Judge Advocate for American Legion Post 35. The Borough of Hughesville and the surrounding area benefitted greatly from his many years of devotion to

public service.

10. Fred's hobbies included beekeeping and photography. He and his wife, Margaret Gehr, maintained an extensive garden behind their home in Hughesville, said garden being as large as one full building lot.
11. Fred was the consummate gentleman-attorney. His standards were high and his ethics and honesty unquestioned. He gave wise and insightful advice and counsel. He was methodical and precise in his work, was always approachable, and took the time to listen carefully.
12. Fred's wife, the former Margaret Reeder, a lifelong resident of the Borough of Hughesville, was the center of his life. Their daughter, Joanna G. Andrews, and their son, Andrew Gehr, benefitted greatly from the devotion of their father. Fred and Margaret were married on September 28, 1940, in Hughesville, and this past year celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. They have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Fred was predeceased by two brothers, Paul and Luther, and is survived by a sister, Virginia G. Stackel.
13. J. Frederick Gehr was a Christian gentleman, a devoted husband and father, an active member of his church and community, a good and successful attorney, an active Mason and Rotarian, and a caring, patient and kind friend. He was humble in spirit and in deed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned, joined in by the Lycoming County Bar, do hereby recognize the passing of J. Frederick Gehr, Esquire, and remember his many contributions to our County.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that these Resolutions and statements be spread at length, upon the Minutes of Your Honorable Court with copies sent to Fred's widow, children and sister, and be published in the **Lycoming Reporter**.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that this Court and the Lycoming Bar extend to J. Frederick Gehr's widow, children, sister, grandchildren and great-grandchildren our deep and heartfelt expression of sympathy.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Howard Langdon, Esquire, Chairperson

The Honorable Charles F. Greevy,
Honorary Member

Steven D. Hess, Esquire

Paul W. Wertman, Esquire

Robert C. Wise, Esquire

William H. Askey, Esquire