

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR

AUSTIN V. CLIFFORD

On May 17, 1975 Bloomington and Indiana University lost a distinguished citizen and professor emeritus through the death of Austin V. Clifford. During his 78 years, this man of broad dimensions excelled as lawyer, teacher, banker, soldier, citizen, gentleman, and friend. Strong in conviction, he was often stern but never less than compassionate. His understanding was deep, his grasp of legal principle sure, and his touch unfailingly generous and courteous. He will be long remembered and sadly missed.

A native of Indianapolis, Austin Clifford earned his A.B. degree from Butler University (1917), an accomplishment followed by two years as officer in the Army. After equipping himself with a post-war law degree from Harvard (1922), he entered law practice in Indianapolis with a firm later to become Matson, Ross, McCord, and Clifford. His innate good sense then led him into marriage with a young Indianapolis woman of considerable talent and spirit, Harriet Marie Ropkey, who contributed much to his later success.

In 1939, he moved to Chicago to join Lord, Bissell, and Kadyk, where he remained until he rejoined the Army following the Nation's engulfment by World War II. In the meantime, he became expert in corporate reorganization, torts, and other matters, qualifying himself to serve such clients as Lloyds of London. His talents in banking brought a directorship in the organization now called the American Fletcher National Bank and Trust Company and membership on its trust investment committee.

In World War II, Austin Clifford rose to the grade of lieutenant colonel. Assigned to military government, he served that branch following the Army's movement through the Low Countries and France into Germany. After the war, he supervised camps for displaced persons in the vicinity of Kassell and helped to repatriate many refugees. Upon his return to this country, he and his wife Harriet brought to Indiana two young women refugees with whom he had worked, together with the parents of one. All of them have remained in this country.

From 1946 until his retirement in 1967, Austin Clifford served on the law faculty at Indiana University. There he became a skilled teacher of torts, evidence, and international law, supervisor of the Krannert program to enhance a number of practical legal skills, and administrator of the Law School's distinguished lecturer program. In 1967, he won the Herman Frederic Lieber Award for excellence in teaching. His devotion to the University never faltered, even during the early days when the Cliffords suffered the deprivations of a Hoosier Courts barrack apartment. This tough-minded realist was a professor whom every student respected and many loved. His benign influence lives on.

Supplementing Austin Clifford's professional activities were his memberships in the American, Indiana, and Indianapolis bar associations. He served as commissioner on the Indiana Commission on Government Economy, as trustee of the Chicago College of Osteopathy, as president of the Family Service Association of Indianapolis, and as member of the National Board of the Family Service Association of America. His academic service included leadership in the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, membership on the investment committee of its national organization, and membership on the University Faculty Council. After retiring from teaching, he served as counsel to the Bloomington law firm of Bunger, Harrell and Robertson. He remained professionally useful to the end of his life.

Indiana University pays final, high tribute to Austin V. Clifford, dedicated servant and warm friend.

I.U. Fac. Council
2/3/76

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