

FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 20, 1995

A special meeting of the Franklin County Bar Association was held upon the death of the Honorable Chauncey M. Depuy, Jr., on May 20, 1995 at 10:30 a.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church in Chambersburg. The purpose of the special meeting was to honor Chauncey M. Depuy, Jr., Esquire, a beloved member of the Bar Association who passed away on May 16, 1995 as a result of a tragic automobile accident.

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Walsh who recognized Kenneth Hankins. Mr. Hankins read a proposed resolution of the Franklin County Bar Association on the death of Chauncey M. Depuy, Jr., a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. Eighteen members of the Association attended the special meeting, nine of whom chose to rise and second the resolution: Rebecca Dempsey, Mark Hammond, Thomas Steiger, Sr., the Hon. William Kaye, William Dick, Joel Zullinger, Michael Finucane, Denis DiLoreto, and Rudolf Wertime.

Judge Depuy was remembered for his love of people, intelligence, encyclopedic knowledge, social conscience, gentleness and selflessness, concern for the disadvantaged, and commitment to community involvement. We were proud that he was a lawyer, given the honor that he had brought to his professional life.

Following the seconding speeches, the group unanimously adopted the Resolution with the further understanding that a copy of same would be directed to Mr. Depuy's family.

Thereafter, the President concluded the meeting at 11:00 a.m. at which point the members proceeded to the memorial service as a group.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn A. Ross, Executive Director

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
ON THE PASSING OF  
THE HON. CHAUNCEY M. DEPUY, JR.**

Almighty God called from our midst, on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, our friend, former Judge, professional colleague and fellow member of this Association, Chauncey M. Depuy, Jr., and we do not know why this death occurred in its particular time and way. We must try to have faith and hope, however, that, in his infinite wisdom, God has a plan for good, which plan God will reveal to us, when we are ready to receive it, and that time will come. In light of that faith and hope, moreover, we need to try to put aside the painful feelings in us, which proceed from the tragedy of Chauncey's death, as the result of an automobile accident. We need, instead, to reflect on the valuable contribution to us and others, of Chauncey's long and productive life, and to seek comfort, also, from our fond memories of the special meaning to so many of us of our years of association with Chauncey. Let us take some time, then, to reflect upon these memories.

WHEREAS, Chauncey was born in Delhi, New York, on November 28, 1907, moved to Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and, in 1924, graduated from Chambersburg High School; in 1928, he graduated from Dickinson College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; he attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School, graduated from that school, in 1935, and he was also a Gowen Research Fellow in the French Criminal Law in France, during 1935 to 1937; Chauncey went on to study at the New School for Social Research in New York City, New York University and then, the Naval School of Military Government at Columbia University in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Chauncey practiced law in Franklin County from 1937 to 1987, except for his time in the military service and as Judge and hearing officer, hereinafter mentioned, was President Judge, as well as sole Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and of the other Courts then of



record, of the 39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, which then was comprised only of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, from 1955 to 1966; He was also chief hearing officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Washington, D.C., from 1966-1972; and

WHEREAS Chauncey was a veteran of World War II, when he served in the United States Navy, where he was an executive officer at the Harbor Entrance Control Post, Adak, Aleutian Islands; he was also a commander in the United States Naval Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Chauncey, at a time before he was elected Judge, was elected and served as Mayor of Chambersburg; he also served, at one time or another, as president of James Buchanan Joint School Board, president of the Franklin County Mental Health Association, president of the Chambersburg United Way, and of the Chambersburg Lions Club, Chairman of the Committee on Jails for the Pennsylvania State Government Commission Study on Penal Reform, this latter post being held from 1963 through 1965; Chauncey also served as Chairman of the Family Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and president of the National Yokefellow Prison Ministry, Inc.; and

WHEREAS Chauncey was long active in the Keystone Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, in the Cumberland Valley Torch Club, and in the American Bar Association and American Judicature Society, both of the latter, being nationwide professional associations of lawyers and Judges; Chauncey had also been in the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, and in the American Field Service Foreign Student Exchange; he also became the Director of Development in the Department of Christian Education in the Presbyterian Church and performed other service work, including mission service, of the Presbyterian Church, outside the United States; Chauncey was also a member and a past elder of Central Presbyterian Church, in Chambersburg, a former

member of the Board of Trustees of Shippensburg University, and of the Advisory Committee to the Office of Children and Youth of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; he was, at the time of his death, also, a member of the American Citizenship/Law Day Committee and the Bench-Bar Conference-1995 Committee, as well as the Publicity/Public Speakers Committee, all of the Franklin County Bar Association, and, perhaps not last, and by no means least, he had been a long time member of the Board of Legal Services, Inc., which provides legal services for indigents, in civil legal matters, as well as performs certain other publicly and/or charitably funded legal services; and

WHEREAS, Chauncey was preceded. in death, by his wife, Edith Burtsfield Hill Depuy, in 1987; but he is survived by a daughter, Nelle D. Nelling, of Chambersburg, a son, Raymond H. Depuy, of Chambersburg, a sister, Wilma DeBernardi, of Deland, Florida, two brothers, Douglas D. Depuy, of Chambersburg, and Leon E. Depuy, of Vero Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, we remember Chauncey, also, as having had, after he left the Bench, a penchant for publicly expressing his opinions about various social and community issues, even in his later years, many of which opinions were quite learnedly rendered, in the form of letters to the editors of local newspapers, and, as, consistently, having had an intellectual way of approaching these and other matters, as well as a subtle sense of humor; he had a penchant, also, for participating in political party rallies and dinners, where he would walk through the crowd, shake hands, exchange a few words, and give his broad, toothy grin and glance of twinkling eyes, much like a candidate running for some public office; although, by the time of his death, Chauncey had long since stopped being a candidate for any office, it, perhaps, should also be noted, here, that although he was the last of the County Court Judges of this county to leave such office through

an election, before the present retention election system went into effect, Chauncey, a Democrat, had won a number of political elections, while being a member of that party, even though it had a minority of the registered voters of the county, among its membership; and it should be remembered, too, paraphrased here, but as we think one of our other members has so recently and aptly intended to put it, Chauncey was not so much involved in law as he was in people; he was known as a kind and gentle man, and highly intelligent, was another's way of saying it; it has also been said that, if there were a minority racial group member, such as a Vietnam War immigrant, or someone like that, with a legal or social problem, you could almost bet Chauncey would be there, too, helping that person. He did not care in what capacity he served. He spent much time seeing to it that such persons got competent legal services, even though that often meant turning a particular case over to some younger or more experienced lawyer in that specific field; and

WHEREAS, we are, nevertheless, shocked and saddened by this, to us, seemingly untimely and tragic death, and realize that Chauncey will also be sorely missed by his relatives and many other friends;

NOW, THEREFORE, in special meeting assembled, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association, desiring to preserve a written record to bear testimony to the high regard in which he was held, by his professional colleagues and others, do hereby resolve, on this 20th day of May, 1995, that we do hold the memory of Chauncey M. Depuy, Jr., in high regard, for his friendship, professional expertise, service, both to his profession and to his community, and we do hereby express our deep sense of loss, as he will surely be sadly missed, by his family, friends and associates.





Hagerstown Morning Herald, Thu May 18, 1995

**Chauncey M. Depuy Jr.**

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. - The Honorable Chauncey M. Depuy Jr., 87, of 248 Village Square died Tuesday, May 16, at the Chambersburg Hospital, as a result of an auto accident.

Born in Delhi, N.Y., Nov. 28, 1907, he was the son of the late Chauncey M. Sr. and Minna Hapich Depuy.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith Burtsfield Hill Depuy, in 1987.

He was a graduate of Chambersburg High School in 1924, and Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., in 1928 (AB); University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1935 (JD); studied at the New School for Social Research in New York City; New York University; Naval School of Military Government at Columbia University in 1944; and was a Gowen Research Fellow in the French Criminal Law (1935-1937) in France.

He practiced law in Franklin County from 1937 to 1987, was former Common Pleas judge (1955-1966) of the 39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and was chief hearing officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Washington, D.C. (1966-1972).

He had been mayor of Chambersburg, President of the James Buchanan Joint School Board, President of the Franklin County Mental Health Association; Chambersburg Area United Way; Lions Club; chairman, Committee on Jails for the Pennsylvania State Government Commission Study on Penal Reform (1963-1965); chairman of the Family Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; President of the National Yokefellow Prison Ministry Inc.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Navy. He was an executive officer at the Harbor Entrance Control Post, Adak, Aleutian Islands, and was commander in the United States Naval Reserves.

He was a member and past Elder of the Central Presbyterian Church.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Shippensburg University; the Advisory Committee to the Office of Children and Youth; the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; and the Board for Legal Services, Inc.

He is survived by a daughter, Nelle D. Nelling of Chambersburg; a son, Raymond H. Depuy of Chambersburg; a sister, Wilma DeBernardi, of Deland, Fla.; two brothers, Douglas D. Depuy of Menno Haven, and Leon E. Depuy of Vero Beach, Fla.; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Central Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Donald W. Bracken officiating. Burial will be in Lincoln Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at Robert G. Sellers Funeral Home, 297 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg, and one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Memorial donations may be made to Franklin County Humane Society, 2325 Country Road, Chambersburg, Pa. 17201.

Ken - This was from the Thursday, May 18, Hagerstown Morning Herald. There may be some info you can use.

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	5/18/95	# of pages ▶	one
To	Ken Hankins	From	Dick Hall		
Co./Dept.	FCBA	Co.	FCBA		
Phone #		Phone #	762-2118		
Fax #	263-3156	Fax #	762-3296		

Dick