

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA.

In re: Memorial Services  
in honor of and respect to

HONORABLE FRANCIS E. WALTER,  
deceased.

Before the Honorable William G. Barthold, President Judge, and the Honorable Carleton T. Woodring and the Honorable Clinton Budd Palmer, Judges, Northampton County, Third Judicial District, Pennsylvania, presiding especially for the memorial services of the Honorable Francis E. Walter, deceased, Monday morning, December 2, 1963, in Courtroom Number One, Northampton County Courthouse, Easton, Pennsylvania.

---

JUDGE BARTHOLD: The Court recognizes Mr. McFadden, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

MR. MC FADDEN: If your Honors please, in compliance with the request of Mr. Sigmon and on behalf of the committee I would like to offer the following resolution:

Francis E. Walter was born on May 26, 1894 at Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, a son of Robley D. Walter, M. D. and Susie (Hess) Walter. Dr. Walter was a distinguished member of the medical profession and highly respected in Easton and throughout Northampton County.

Mr. Walter was educated in the Easton public schools, George Washington University and Georgetown University School of Law. He received the degree of A. B. from George Washington University, and L. L. B. degree from Georgetown University School of Law and Honorary L. L. D. degrees from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, and Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

He was admitted to the Bar of Northampton County on March 13, 1922 and thereafter actively practiced law in the Courts of Northampton County, as well as the Superior and

Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania and the various Federal Courts, individually and in association with the Honorable Carleton T. Woodring and Moses A. Strausburg, Esquire, under the firm name of Walter, Woodring and Strausburg, until his heavy responsibilities as a member of Congress impelled him to withdraw from active practice. Mr. Walter was elected to the 73rd Congress in 1932 and remained a member of Congress until his death.

During World War I, Mr. Walter answered the call of his Country and served as a Seaman and Ensign. He was again commissioned in the United States Navy during World War II as a Lieutenant Commander.

In addition to his private practice of the law, Mr. Walter acted as solicitor to the Commissioners of Northampton County and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Easton National Bank and Trust Company of Easton, Pennsylvania and as a Director and Vice-President of the Broad Street Trust Company at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Within a few years of his admission to the Bar, Mr. Walter became an outstanding trial lawyer and participated in many important cases, bringing to the trial of these cases not only a deep understanding of human nature but remarkable resourcefulness and great capacity as an advocate.

There is no doubt, that Mr. Walter by entering public life as a distinguished, fearless and farsighted member of Congress deprived the Bar of Northampton County of one of its most able practitioners and all of us who were privileged to follow his splendid career and enjoy his friendship mourn his passing.

---

If your Honors please, I would move that when Court adjourns today, it do so out of respect to the memory of our fellow member of the Bar, the late Francis E. Walter.

JUDGE BARTHOLD: The Court recognizes Judge Woodring to speak for the Court.

JUDGE WOODRING: President Judge Barthold, Judge Palmer, Mrs. William L. Mack, daughter of our distinguished

honoree, Miss Ruth Miskell, Mrs. Helen D. Sutton, and Miss Sandra Baurkot, members of the staff of Mr. Walter, my fellow members of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen :

If I may be permitted a personal privilege to talk informally just for a moment by way of introduction, you might be interested to know that on my return to Easton after graduation from the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania I had no plans, no intentions. I think I was not registered in any law office, and all I had was a diploma and some bad teeth, and I went to the Drake Building to see a dentist. On the way down from that office the elevator stopped at the second floor, and on the door I saw the name of Francis E. Walter, Attorney-at-Law.

I had grown up in the same block with Mr. Walter, where we knew him as "Tad," but I hadn't seen him for many years. I had been away at school, college, and then some other work for four years and then law school for three years, so I hadn't seen Mr. Walter for a long time; but when I saw the name, I thought, "I think I will go in and say hello to Mr. Walter"—I had nothing else to do. It was "depression days"; nobody had very much to do. I went in, and his secretary announced me.

Mr. Walter was the County Solicitor. He was working on some very unusual law pertaining to the building of county roads. The County of Northampton had just built some concrete roads, which was an innovation in those days, and in the law it was rather unique for counties themselves to build the roads. He was looking up the law of land damages concerning these roads, and he came out, when I was announced, and he shook hands with me, and he said, "Come in and sit down. I've got some problems here." And I am still sitting in that office.

Last May, with one of my fellow members of the Bar, I contemplated a trip. I knew that Mr. Walter was critically ill, and I took a trip to Washington to see him. After our too short visit he grasped me by the hand and, sick and weak as he was, he gave me a hearty handshake, and he said, "Carl."

Between those two handshakes has been a lifetime of most satisfactory friendship and loyalty and the kind of a relation that can't be expressed in words. It has to be lived and felt and appreciated.

REMARKS OF  
HONORABLE CARLETON T. WOODRING

The Life of the Honorable Francis E. Walter, Member of Congress, may be likened to innumerable facets of a mountain stream: rippling in the bright sunshine of its progress toward the sea, plunging headlong over the falls and rapids of adversity, flowing magnificently through the deep pools of accomplishments, inexorably carving its way through the granite walls of confinement and hardship. And, like the stream which was fashioned to serve man, Mr. Walter's life was steadfastly dedicated to that purpose. A man of deep humility, he was a true friend and a loyal servant.

My colleagues at the bar in their remarks and resolution have summarized his biography and legal career. It was my singular privilege to be associated with Mr. Walter as law clerk, partner and office companion for more than 30 years. His law practice, at first principally in the criminal courts, was marked with outstanding success—a success built upon a thorough knowledge of the law, a practical understanding of logic and applied psychology, a rich humor, and a sincere devotion to a demanding profession. Attorney Walter's success included such goals of achievement and accomplishment as favorable verdicts in the trial courts, affirmances in the Supreme and Superior Courts and retainers from leading citizens, foreign and domestic corporations and numerous municipalities, including the County of Northampton which he served as County Solicitor for five years. He was a tough adversary, but one whose charming personality claimed every member of the bar as his close friend. He enjoyed an intimate, albeit respectful, relationship with the court. Law, politics and statesmanship: these were his areas of devoted action and all were marked with success of a high order and degree.

Mr. Walter's paternal grandfather, father and two uncles were physicians and Democrats. From them Tad acquired two traits: (1) Service to mankind, and (2) A strong party loyalty. He believed sincerely in good governmental services; and when his party leaders recommended an unworthy candidate, one motivated by self-seeking rather than public welfare, Tad raised a loud voice in protest and bent every effort in opposition. His courage and forthrightness were not long unnoticed, and at the age of 34 he was elected a delegate to the Democratic national convention in Houston, Texas, where he cast his ballot for Alfred E. Smith. He represented the Commonwealth as a delegate at large at many other national conventions, and served as the presiding officer at several of them.

In 1932 Mr. Walter was elected to the Congress of the United States, and he was re-elected to that high office each biennium thereafter until his death on May 31, 1963. In the Congress Representative Walter gained the affection and esteem of members on both sides of the House and Senate. He was a skilled parliamentarian and a confidante and adviser of presidents. He did not practice personal aggrandisement, however, and broke with Franklin D. Roosevelt's new deal, and with Harry S. Truman over executive objections to the Immigration Law. He was a master politician and rendered highly personalized representation to all the people in his district and, parenthetically, to numerous persons beyond the district. He was possessed of vast energies and a driving ambition.

In the Congress Tad, on three occasions, was elected Chairman of the Democratic Caucus. He was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the 81st Congress and was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore of the 87th Congress. He was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Administrative Procedure, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and Chairman of the House Patronage Committee. On more than one occasion when the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole Mr. Walter was selected chairman because of his magnificent skill and impartiality. When he thus presided during the debate on the last Civil Rights Bill, the House broke

into a thunderous ovation in which opponents and proponents of the bill joined in tribute to a great Congressman.

Tad's legislative career evidenced a great versatility. At first much of his time was devoted to labor legislation. He performed monumental service in writing and working for nine years for the enactment of the Administrative Procedures Act which protects the rights of individuals against an encroaching bureaucracy. He co-authored and was responsible for the enactment, over presidential veto, of the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Bill. He conceived and put through the Congress the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, the first legislation which opened our doors to 420,000 displaced persons who had been driven from their homes in the Second World War. He was equally responsible for the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 and the emergency parole program for Hungarian refugees in 1956. Tad was the founder of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and served as the United States delegate at its semi-annual meetings in Geneva, Switzerland throughout the balance of his life.

These humanitarian efforts to help the poor, the weak, and the homeless whose lives were shattered by war and dictatorship have gained world wide recognition. To merely list the major awards presented to Congressman Walter requires more time and space than these brief remarks afford. They include all of the national veterans' organizations, national service clubs, American Bar Association, patriotic societies, universities, the Japanese government, the Order of Orange-Nassau presented by the Netherlands government, the Cross of Commander in the Order of Merit of The Republic of Italy, the Captive European Nations Award, the Olivier Van Noor Medallion presented by the Board of Netherlands Migration Foundation, the Steuben Award by the Steuben Society of America, and a plaque by the Jewish Community Center of Easton which reads, in part: "Give me your tired, and your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed, to me . . ." Mr. Walter took upon him-

self the sufferings and needs of all these people. His service to them was a compulsion from which there was no escape.

Mr. Walter was a true patriot in the real sense of the word. He served in combat naval aviation in World Wars I and II; in the former as a Seaman and Ensign and in the latter as a Lt. Commander. He evidenced a deep gratitude for the privilege of citizenship in a free nation. He was unflagging in his efforts to protect the United States of America from foes within as well as those without. Mr. Walter was a man of humility but, with pardonable pride in his family's service record, he has listed in his own hand—I might say on the back of an envelope—the name and rank of his grandfather's, Dr. Barnet C. Walter's eight grandsons and great-grandsons. Seven of them, including Francis E. Walter, were officers in the U. S. Naval Reserves. The remaining one was a Sergeant in the U. S. Army. Behind that name Mr. Walter has written "bad eyes".

Congressman Walter's legislative record was too extensive to recite at length. Two additional matters must be included, however: (1) He was one of the leading forces in the creation of a legislatively most unusual federal-state Delaware River Basin Compact which will benefit millions of residents in Northeastern United States through flood control and more conservative use of the watersheds' land and water resources; (2) he was untiring in serving his constituents. No request was too menial or small for his prompt and courteous attention, nor was any request too large or difficult for his competent and able service.

The Congressional Record for the 88th Congress, Vol. 109, Nos. 77 and 82, dated May 23 and June 3, 1963 record at considerable length the extended remarks of Mr. Walter's colleagues on the occasions of his birthday anniversary and his death. These are incorporated herein by reference as though more fully and at large set forth. To demonstrate the high regard in which he was held, personally, and professionally, I would like to quote a few excerpts from those records:

Mr. Charles A. Hallek, minority leader of the Congress, said this, among other things: "He was highly capable; he backed his convictions with tremendous courage in the face

of sometimes bitter opposition . . . Not in my time have I known a more effective and unrelenting foe of the Communist conspiracy. I know of no single individual who has shown more sympathy and understanding for unhappy victims of that conspiracy from foreign lands. Literally thousands upon thousands of human beings owe their chances for a new life of freedom in America in large measure to the efforts of Tad Walter. He was a stalwart patriot and a rugged champion of the downtrodden."

Mr. Frank Chelf of Kentuck said this: "Francis Walter shall be missed as one of the best Congressmen who ever served in this legislative body," and then he gave a true definition, in my opinion, of Mr. Walter's traits, "Under a self-developed and disciplined air of so-called toughness, there beat a heart filled to the brim with compassion, sympathy, helpfulness, and understanding of all his fellow men."

Mr. Hale Boggs, the majority whip in the Congress, said this: "I doubt that any man in this Congress, or in any other Congress, has ever personally touched with a helping hand more individual human lives."

Mr. Walter's death closes a chapter in my life. I was born and grew up in the block in which he lived. I have known him throughout my life. I have been closely associated with him in my practice of the law and my political activities. I shall miss him more than I can say. To me Tad Walter was a warm, kind, helpful, personal friend. The people of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania have lost a humble, capable, devoted servant. The people of Pennsylvania and of the United States have lost a great patriot and splendid statesman.

---

JUDGE BARTHOLD: Thank you, Judge Woodring. The Court joins in and heartily approves the beautiful eulogy delivered by Judge Woodring. The resolution submitted by the Bar Association of Northampton County is unanimously approved and adopted. The official court reporter is directed to transcribe these proceedings, so that they may be made a part of our court records. The Court further directs that the Con-



gressional Record of Congressman Walter's achievements contained in Volume 109, Numbers 77 and 82, dated May 23, and June 3, 1963, be attached to the minutes of these proceedings as physical exhibits, so that they will become not only a part of the Congressional Record, which they presently are, but also will become a part of the records of Northampton County. The Court further directs that the resolution of the Northampton County Bar Association and the eulogy delivered by Judge Woodring be printed in the Northampton County Reporter and that copies of the proceedings be forwarded to the members of the family and the staff of Mr. Walter.

When this court adjourns, it will adjourn out of respect to and memory of the Honorable Francis E. Walter, able lawyer, distinguished statesman, dedicated representative of this Congressional District, and a truly great man.

The Court will now be in recess in order that the members of the Bar and other friends of the late Honorable Francis E. Walter may greet his family at this time.