

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON THE DEATH OF  
CHRISTIAN S. ERB, JR.**

Christian Stehman Erb, Jr., better known to his friends as Chris, was born on March 20, 1931, in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He was the only child of Christian S. Erb, Sr. and Sara Erb. He grew up on his father's dairy farm and, from these roots, developed a love of the Central Pennsylvania area which called him back after he completed his schooling.

Chris graduated from Lafayette College in 1952. He earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955. Chris went to work at Metzger, Wickersham, Knauss and Erb in 1957 and concluded his illustrious legal career there in 1997.

It is likely that most of us who remember Chris recall him as a litigator. His field was insurance defense. He practiced it back in the day, some would say, when that branch of the law possessed a certain cachet – back when their lawyers told the insurance companies what should be done, rather than the other way around!

He believed that the best defense was an aggressive one. And he made his mark.

For example, one of his clients was Gulf Insurance Company. Gulf was the carrier for the State of Pennsylvania before the Commonwealth was self-insured. Being their counsel in the capital city of the Keystone State was an impressive job, particularly because it was at the time when the old order of nearly absolute sovereign immunity was breaking down and their counsel in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh helped shape the modified immunity laws that took its place. Not just Chris, but his associates, appeared again and again in our appellate courts while those questions were being resolved.

Similarly, Chris participated as defense counsel in the first trial ever held in Commonwealth Court, which till then had functioned only as an appellate review body. They

borrowed Court Room 1 of our Dauphin Court House for a months-long proceeding, from which Chris's client, then an eastern PA DA and later an appellate judge, was dismissed at the end of the plaintiffs' case.

Beyond that, there were multiple, multiple representations of health care providers and other causes that rose well above the level of the typical "fender bender."

Yet, there was another side of Chris's legal work.

In addition to civil litigation, he was an industrious general practitioner serving a broad clientele chiefly from the Lower Dauphin area. Friday evenings would see him at his Middletown office. Friends and acquaintances of his agricultural-rooted family came to "Christ" (pronounced with a short "i"). He wrote their wills, settled their parents' estates, helped them set up their businesses, drafted agreements to sell their farms, negotiated their eminent domain settlements when Route 283 was built, and addressed whatever else arose in the normal course of life.

He also represented boroughs, townships, water and sewer authorities, and the authorities of several school districts back in the days when the districts themselves were prohibited by law from borrowing and relied on these collateral legal structures to finance the erection of consolidated school buildings that replaced the one-room and other small schools of an earlier generation.

No matter the area of law, Chris was hard working and devoted to serving his clients. He was respected by other lawyers, including opposing counsel. For these reasons, Chris had the reputation with his clients, colleagues, and the Courts for which the Bar strives.

Outside of the courtroom, Chris was a diehard Boston Red Sox fan. You would find Chris at spring training in Florida every year. He also had a love for tennis, bridge, and his dogs.

You would often find him having lunch at the former Coronet Restaurant. Chris was a quiet and unassuming man, yet he led by his actions and his examples.

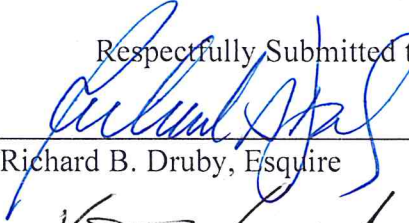
He was married to his wife, Kay, for 66 years. He was a beloved father to his daughter, Jane and a wonderful grandfather to his granddaughter, Jenna.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that with the passing of Christian S. Erb, his family has lost a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, the Court, and the community have lost a highly respected attorney, friend, colleague, and valued citizen.

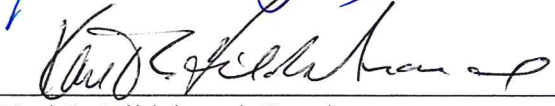
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Bar, in meeting assembled mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, and tender our sympathy and condolences to his family.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be spread upon the records of our Court, with the original to be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and a copy to become part of the records of the Dauphin County Bar Association, with copies to be transmitted to his widow, Kay Erb, and family.

Respectfully Submitted this 23rd day of March, 2022.


  
Richard B. Druby, Esquire

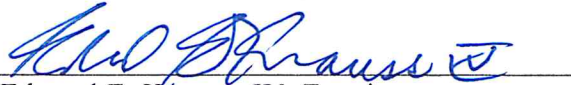
  
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Karl R. Hildabrand, Esquire

  
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