

MEMORIAL

John R. Donohue
(1868 – 1929)

Ramsey County Bar Association

May 8, 1930

MEMORIAL

John R. Donohue was born in the town of Shields, Dodge County, Wisconsin, September 19th, 1868. He attended the country schools at his home and graduated from the Northern Illinois Normal School Dickson, Illinois, and later from the law department of the University of Minnesota in the class of 1896. In 1893 he entered, the law offices of P. J. McLaughlin and Samuel Morrison in St. Paul, and, became a member of the firm of McLaughlin, Boyesen and Donohue with law offices in the Pioneer Building, St. Paul. In February, 1898, Mr. Donohue, moved to Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and in November of the same year was elected county attorney of Itasca County. He returned to St. Paul in 1902 where he continued in private practice until he sudden and unexpected death on November 22nd, 1929.

Mr. Donohue was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic State Central Committee in 1928. He was, for 22 years, U. S. Jury Commissioner at St. Paul. Having been a teacher in his youth in Wisconsin he was actively interested in the public Schools and was at one time president of the Parent-Teachers Association of the Central High School of St. Paul.

Mr. Donohue was a self made man having earned his way through school by teaching and other employment. He was an able lawyer and while County Attorney of Itasca County, Minnesota, was very successful in the prosecution of a number of important murder and other criminal cases. One case that will be long remembered by the residents of Grand Rapids was his successful prosecution and conviction of George Sullivan for first degree murder in the year 1899. He was retained as attorney to fight the rate raise of the Modern Woodmen of America in 1919 and successfully prevailed in said matter. In 1929 he was again retained by the same client as attorney in a similar cause and was so engaged at the time of his death.

He was married to Anne Lang of St. Paul, in June, 1898, and is survived by his wife and three children. He was an exemplary father

arid husband and leaves behind loving memories not only to his sorrowing family but to a host of admiring friends among his fellow lawyers, his political associates, and a legion of personal admirers who were attracted by his many kindly personal traits of character that endeared him to all.

“Whereof the man, that with me trod
This planet, was a noble type

* * * * *

That friend of mine who lives in God,

That God, which ever lives and loves,
One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.”

While the memory of his family and his numerous friends endure it will be a memorial to his many kindly qualities of character. Our deepest sympathy is with his family and friends. We move that this expression at our sincerest regard be spread upon the records of this Court.

GEORGE CAHILL
Chairman
HARRY LOUGHRAN
HARRY WEISS
ALF E. BOYESEN
DANIEL KEEFE
ROBERT WILLE

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Posted MLHP: July 15, 2010.