

IN MEMORIAM

Donald T. Winder

(October 22, 1894 – September 18, 1968)

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WINONA COUNTY**

WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

APRIL 21, 1969

Donald T. Winder

(1894 – 1968)

Donald Winder served as an officer in the Marine Corps in both World Wars. In World War II, he was a legal advisor on civilian matters in the Pacific theater, and after the war's conclusion, was assigned to the staff of prosecutors of the major war crimes trials in Tokyo. He was discharged in 1946, holding the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The following year, he moved to Winona and began practicing law. He was fifty-three years old, and had held a variety of jobs in Illinois and the military in the three decades following his admission to the bar in 1916, but he had never practiced or lived in Minnesota. To the question of whether, at this stage in his life, he could assimilate easily and successfully into his new community, the answer is, yes, he did, and he did so in part by pursuing a great passion: helping and honoring war veterans.

Shortly after coming to Winona, he inaugurated what became a yearly tradition: each Memorial Day he donned his Marine Corps dress uniform, and read the roster of county war dead at the shrine of crosses during the American Legion Memorial Day Services. Known as Winona's most Patriotic Marine, he organized the Marine Corps League, served as President of the Winona County Polio Chapter, and chaired the United States Savings Bond Campaign for 20 years, among other civic activities. He also was a member of the county bar association.

He died on September 18, 1968. The following day, the Winona *Daily News* carried his obituary and, fittingly, a photograph of him in his Marine uniform:

D. T. Winder, Lawyer, Dies

Donald T. Winder, 73, lawyer here since 1947, died suddenly at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, at his home, 350 5th St.

He had a heart ailment, and only recently had closed his practice at his residence.

Winder, who served in the Marine Corps during both World War I and II, had been active in community affairs.

He had been chairman of the U.S. savings bond campaign 20 years, had served as president of the county polio chapter, chairman of the Americanism and executive committees of Leon J. Wetzel Post 9 of the American Legion, on the board of directors of the American Legion Memorial Club, chairman of study committees which supported the construction of an outdoor swimming pool; and was a member of the Masonic lodge, the Arlington Club, and the 40 & 8.

Each Memorial Day he put his Marine Corps dress uniform—he was a retired lieutenant colonel—and read the roster of county war dead—at the American Legion shrine of crosses, a program he conceived shortly after coming to Winona from Chicago.

Winder served in the Marine Corps nearly six years during World War II. From 1936 to 1940 he was a member of the joint Army-Navy selective service committee, and in October 1940, he was called to active duty in, the legal division, office of the director, national headquarters, Selective Service System, Washington, D.C.

In late 1942, he attended the Army school for military government at the University of Virginia and then the Navy school for military government at Columbia university.

He was then assigned to overseas duty in the Pacific and for two years was stationed at Pearl Harbor, serving as chief civil affairs officer for the Marine Corps. In charge of plans for the conduct of civilians on all invaded islands, Winder accompanied invasion troops to Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa.

After the conquest of Okinawa he came home on rotation leave, then returned to the Pacific as acting director of the naval war crimes staff. At the major war crimes trials at Tokyo he served as assistant prosecutor and as liaison officer from the U.S. staff to 10 other countries, was charged with securing a building for the trials and escorted the Chinese, French and Netherlands prosecution staffs to the areas where evidence was to be obtained.

He came back to the States in July 1946, and was placed on inactive duty with a reserve commission as lieutenant colonel.

That was his second period of service in the Marine Corps. After World War I he left the corps as a Captain.

He was graduated from Northwestern university in 1916 and was admitted to the Illinois bar, later acting as a law clerk in Chicago.

After World War I he entered the merchandising and real estate business, and from 1930-1933 he was affiliated with the Illinois state insurance department. Thereafter Winder began his fulltime law practice in Chicago and served on a committee of the Illinois State Bar association committee whose codification of the insurance laws was later accepted by the Illinois legislature. During this period, too, he served as commander of the Oak Park post, American Legion.

He was born Oct. 22, 1894 in Warsaw, Ind., to Thomas and Margaret Walch Winder, and married Marie Wheeler in Chicago Nov. 24, 1917.

Surviving are: his wife; one son, Ralph, Chicago; one daughter, Mrs. C. E. (Joan) Riley, St. Louis, Mo.; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild,

and one sister, Miss Margaret L. Winder, Los Angeles, Calif. A son Donald Jr. died in 1964.¹

In April of the following year, Harold J. Libera delivered the following memorial to him on behalf of the county bar association:

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF WINONA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MEMORIAL TO DONALD T. WINDER.

Donald T. Winder, Attorney at Law, died at his home in Winona at 350 West 5th Street, on September 18, 1968. Mr. Winder had been a Practicing Attorney in Winona since the Fall of 1946.

Mr. Winder was graduated from Northwestern University in 1916, and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in that year. He entered the United States Marine Corps during World War I, and left the Corps as a Captain.

After World War I he was engaged in the practice of law in Chicago, and was also in the Merchandising and Real Estate business, and was affiliated with the Illinois State Insurance Department.

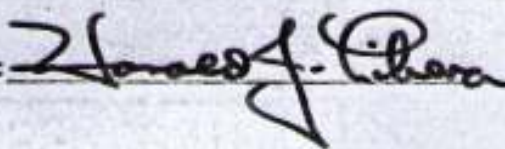
Mr. Winder again served in the Marine Corps for nearly six years during World War II at Pearl Harbor, Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa, and after World War II he served as Assistant Prosecutor and as Liaison Officer at the Major War Crime Trials at Tokyo, Japan. He returned to the United States in the summer of 1946 with a commission of Lt. Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

¹ *Winona Daily News*, Thursday, September 19, 1968, at 11A (photo and funeral arrangements omitted).

During his years in the practice of law in Winona, Mr. Winder was active in community affairs, having been Chairman of the United States Savings Bond Campaign for 20 years, and had served as President of the Winona County Polio Chapter, as Chairman of the Americanism and Executive Committees of Leon J. Wetzel Post #9 of the American Legion, and as Chairman of the American Legion Memorial Club, and the Winona County Bar Association. Mr. Winder was Winona's most Patriotic Marine, and organized the Marine Corps League and the American Legion Memorial Day Services. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Arlington Club, the 40 & 8, and the Local, State and American Bar Associations.

Mr. Winder was an honored and respected Senior Member of the Winona County Bar, and the members of the Winona County Bar request that this memorial be entered in the records of the District Court of the Third Judicial District, in honor of his memory, and that a copy hereof be sent to his widow, Mrs. Marie W. Winder.

**Dated at Winona, Minnesota,
this 21st day of April, 1969.**

WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.
By: 

W W W

Posted MLHP: May 8, 2013.