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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 50: 1906 (A TRIBUTE TO HERBERT WILMERDING)

By Richard Schulte

The tenth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was held on May 23rd, 24th and 25th, 1906. Among the business discussed at this meeting was a tribute to one of the Association's members, Herbert Wilmerding.

“RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF HERBERT WILMERDING.

Shortly after the adjournment of our last annual meeting the sad news reach us of the death of Herbert Wilmerding, who for five years was a member of our Executive committee and who served us at various times as a member of important Special Committees and delegations.

Herbert Wilmerding, as representative of the Continental Insurance Company, then as Manager of the Rochester Department of the Underwriters' Association of New York State, afterward as Secretary to the Philadelphia Underwriters' Association, and finally as Secretary to the Committee of Twenty of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, was always a loyal supporter of and earnest worker in the affairs of the National Fire Protection Association. By his death we lost a wise counselor and a good friend, and it seems fitting that we should pause in the consideration of the business with which he was so closely identified to pay tribute to his memory. Much of the conservative conduct of our affairs in the past has been due to Herbert Wilmerding, and many of his ideas have been used for our benefit.

Whereas, On May 30th, 1905, Herbert Wilmerding, our associate in the active work of the National Fire Protection Association, was taken from us by death, and

Whereas, His absence from our deliberations is a distinct loss to us as an Association as well as to our individual members, many of whom were privileged to enjoy his friendship, therefore be it

Resolved, That we place in our permanent records this minute in token of our appreciation to the good which came to us collectively and individually through the life, the work, and the wise counsels and the helpful friendship of Herbert Wilmerding.

*Wm. A. Anderson,
E. U. Crosby,
W. H. Merrill, Jr.,
Committee.”*

Source: *Proceedings of the National Fire Protection Association*, Volume 1904-1907

Herbert Wilmerding is one of many who contributed to the early success of the National Fire Protection Association. While the name will likely be forgotten once again by most in the field in a few days, it is worth noting that there are many who have made contributions to the field who have been forgotten.

Although Mr. Wilmerding's and the contributions of others may be forgotten, it's still worth the time paying tribute to those who have gotten us to where we're at today in the fire protection field.

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