



Alexander T. Wells

President of Lions International, 1939-1940

ALLEXANDER T. WELLS, 23rd President of Lions International who headed the Association during the 1939-40 term, passed away suddenly in New York City on April 9, 1954.

Mr. Wells was a prominent New York attorney. He was born in that city and lived there during his entire lifetime. He received his education in the New York public schools, St. Lawrence Academy, Dwight Preparatory School and the New York Law School.

His career in Lionism began as a member of the Long Island City club, where he served as a director, vice president and three terms as president. He held the office of Deputy District Governor for two years; then became District Governor when the entire state was one district. He became a member of the International Board of Directors for two years, during which he headed the Committee on International Relations, and in 1936 was elected Third Vice President of the International Association.

Mr. Wells became President of Lions International at the Buffalo convention in 1939; his administration was marked by rapid expansion in membership and service. As a Past President he took no passive part in the organization; he headed the Host Convention committees which staged the New York conventions in 1948 and 1949, and was busily engaged in chairmanship of the Host Committee for the 1954 International convention in New York when death halted his endeavors. He served as representative of Lions International to the United Nations.

Tributes to the life and unselfish service of Mr. Wells have come to the International office from many Lions; three are reproduced here to indicate the friendship and esteem in which he was held by men who worked intimately with him in the service of the Association.

Past Pres. William A. Westfall

"When I received word that the Grand Architect of the Universe had summoned Past. Pres. Alexander T. Wells to lay aside his working tools of life and enter into the portals of his Eternal Home, I realized that I had lost a very dear friend. Also I knew that Lions International had lost one of its

most active, ardent and best members.

"Alex was a real man. He loved people and he had built himself an ideal of activity that he should do something to help those who were afflicted and could not do for themselves. For many years he dedicated his life to that purpose. He was a fine lawyer, an able advocate, and was loyal to his clients and to his friends. He was a lovable and dutiful husband and father, and we extend to the family our most sincere sympathy.

"He was gentle, gracious, considerate and wise, and held steadfastly to his ideals until his life was worthy of emulation by all."

Past Pres. D. A. Skeen

"It is a rare privilege to offer a tribute to Past Pres. Alexander T. Wells. Over the years I have seen in him the qualities, understood and lived by him, that are basic to unselfish service to humanity. These are the very foundation, and have been the continuing stimulation, to the growth of Lionism. No day was too long, and no point of service was too distant, for Alex to plan and meet the call for service in the name of Lions International.

"In his varied and continued activities in furtherance of the United Nations and its purposes, no man or organization through its representative did more.

"Alex lived and exemplified toward his fellow men a love of service as depicted by Henry Drummond: "The spectrum of Love has nine ingredients; patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity."

"Lion Alexander T. Wells exemplified them all."

Past Pres. H. C. Petry, Jr.

"Alexander T. Wells was a distinguished and most able President of Lions International. After serving as President of our great organization he continued to serve Lions International in many important capacities. He was a man of courage and vision; in recent years he has done much work for world peace. Alexander Wells was our friend, and Lions International has suffered a great loss by his passing. During his lifetime he was an inspiration to all of us who followed him as President, and Mrs. Wells has our complete sympathy."