

1972

A Tribute to Dean William Taylor Muse

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Recommended Citation

M. R. Doubles, *A Tribute to Dean William Taylor Muse*, 6 U. Rich. L. Rev. 189 (1972).
Available at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/lawreview/vol6/iss2/3>

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 6

SPRING 1972

NUMBER 2

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN WILLIAM TAYLOR MUSE

The Board of Editors of the Review respectfully dedicates this issue to the memory of William Taylor Muse, 1906-1971, member of the Law Faculty for 40 years and Dean of the University of Richmond Law School for 24 years.

WILLIAM TAYLOR MUSE

*M. Ray Doubles**

WILLIAM TAYLOR MUSE—an excellent student, a great teacher, a cooperative member of the faculty, a distinguished Dean, a loyal alumnus, a dedicated public servant, a close friend, a Christian gentleman—this in a nutshell is my recollection of the man I knew intimately for forty-three years.

I remember him well as a student—about as green a freshman as I have ever encountered, but endowed with that burning zeal to become a lawyer that prophesied a great future in legal circles. As student librarian, he spent long hours poring over his assignments. When it came time in his senior year to award the medal to the Best All Around Graduate, there was no contest—“Bill” Muse, who hailed from a stop on the road called Ordinary in Gloucester County, Virginia, had won it hands down.

He had a flattering offer to become associated with one of Richmond’s outstanding law firms, and a promising future was in store for him as a practicing lawyer, but when he was invited to become a member of the Law Faculty in 1931, the call of Alma Mater was one that this loyal alumnus could not resist.

* Acting Dean and Professor of Law, University of Richmond Law School.

As a fellow associate on the faculty from 1931 to 1947, he was an indefatigable worker. Always willing to assume assigned tasks and volunteering to accept other administrative responsibilities, he was a joy to the Dean's Office. Why? Because his heart was dedicated to the University of Richmond.

When the office of the Dean became vacant in 1947, Bill Muse was a natural for the appointment. Already active in statewide legal circles, he brought to the office prestige and enthusiasm that bode well for the school's future.

Elsewhere in this volume is a chronicle of his outstanding accomplishments as Dean of the Law School from 1947 to the date of his death in 1971. No man ever crowded greater accomplishment into the shortened span of life that was his. His parting has deprived the University of a loyal administrator; has left void the chair of an inspiring teacher; has reduced to a memory, beautiful though it be, the geniality of a devoted friend; has left vacant the pew of an ardent and active Churchman—but his Life is a monument to the accomplishments he achieved.