James W. Payne, Jr.

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A TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. PAYNE, JR.

The Board of Editors of the Review respectfully dedicates this issue to the memory of James W. Payne, Jr., Professor of Law at the University of Richmond for 25 years.

JAMES W. PAYNE, JR.

Harry L. Snead, Jr.*

After knowing Jim Payne as my Law Professor, fellow colleague, and friend for 23 years, I come to you today with the praise the man and his achievements so richly deserve.

He was a devoted husband and a loving father.

In his early years he studied for the ministry, and at one period in his life he conducted services at three different small churches. When the United States entered World War II, he volunteered for the Air Force, where he served in a dual capacity as assistant to the chaplain and flight engineer. After the war, he decided that being a lawyer was the best way to serve other people. He attended our Law School, ranked first in his class, and had one of the highest averages ever attained at our school. Upon his graduation, he was immediately hired as a law teacher. A few years later he attended Harvard Law School where he received his LL.M. degree with an “A” average.

Jim, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, had one of the finest analytical minds I have ever observed. His teaching method, designed to teach students to think for themselves, was excellent.

*Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law. These remarks are taken from the memorial service for Professor Payne at the Law School, January 15, 1973.
He has written many law review articles, primarily in the field of evidence; he was an authority in the field. His articles have been cited in numerous books and cases, including a case decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. Indeed, he was consulted in many important cases.

His leadership was evidenced by his membership in Omicron Delta Kappa.

His interest in civic affairs caused him to serve on numerous boards and commissions in the city and state, as well as to work and serve with the Boy Scouts.

He was a loyal friend, a stimulating colleague and my personal confidant.

Aside from his work, his interests were varied and numerous. Jim enjoyed reading and writing poetry, and some of his poems have been published. Likewise, he was an avid and extremely successful fisherman in both fresh and salt water. He enjoyed walking the sandy beaches of the Outer Banks off the coast of the Carolinas. Moreover, he was a photographer, and his pictures were of a professional quality, many of them exhibited and sold in galleries on the East Coast.

Jim's greatest pleasure, though, was to climb and camp high in the mountains, particularly during a winter snow. Now he lies peacefully—his grave surrounded by the snow covered Virginia mountains he loved and knew so well.