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A Tribute To J. Westwood Smithers

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A TRIBUTE TO J. WESTWOOD SMITHERS

The Editorial Board of the University of Richmond Law Review respectfully dedicates this issue to the memory of J. Westwood Smithers, 1909-1981, member of the Law Faculty for thirty years and the first editor of the University of Richmond Law Notes, from which the University of Richmond Law Review developed.

J. WESTWOOD SMITHERS

*Robert R. Merhige, Jr.**

In the Fall of 1979, Volume 14 of the University of Richmond Law Review was dedicated to J. Westwood Smithers.

I was honored at being given an opportunity at that time to express my affection and respect for him.

Sadly, because of his demise in the Summer of 1981, I have now been asked to address these few words in his memory:

The loss of "The Professor" is immeasurable to his family, his students, all of whom were his friends, his other friends, and to the University's School of Law, to which he remained loyally devoted from the day of his entrance as a student until his all too early death in 1981.

To say he is, and will continue to be, missed falls far short of an adequate expression of my feelings as I write this short memorial. Yet my grief is tempered by the fact that his contributions to the University of Richmond Law School, and his influence on so many of us who were and are part of the legal profession are, for those of us who were honored by his friendship and tutelage, timeless. For this I shall be forever grateful.

For myself, I cannot say good-bye; for his influence on my professional life is so deeply ingrained that my memory of him is constant.

* LL.B., University of Richmond, 1942; LL.D., University of Richmond, 1976; Federal District Judge, Eastern District of Virginia.

Though he has gone to greater rewards, his spirit is still amongst us, and hopefully will sustain us in the moments of professional stress which are inevitable — from a personal standpoint, I am satisfied, beyond a reasonable doubt, that my memory of him as a man, and as a teacher, will continue to be a source of inspiration and hope.

Miss him, I do and will — forget him, I, happily, cannot.