

1992

A Tribute to A.L. Philpott

Lewis W. Parker Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/lawreview>



Part of the [Legal Biography Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lewis W. Parker Jr., *A Tribute to A.L. Philpott*, 26 U. Rich. L. Rev. xv. (1992).

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/lawreview/vol26/iss4/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Journals at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Richmond Law Review by an authorized editor of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

A TRIBUTE TO A.L. PHILPOTT

*The Honorable Lewis W. Parker, Jr.**

In 1973 I served in my first session of the General Assembly of Virginia. Prior to leaving for Richmond, I was advised to keep my mouth shut and to never, never raise the ire of A.L. Philpott. We had some problem in Mecklenburg County, and I introduced legislation to address it. As the bill was called on second reading, I shuddered as Mr. Philpott rose and asked the Speaker if I would yield for a question. He asked: "Does the gentleman realize the bill is in violation of the Constitution of Virginia?" Since I am not an attorney, I had no idea that this was the case. He proceeded to expand his questions. At the end of his statement he asked the Speaker if I would allow this measure to go by for the day. I don't know if I have ever been happier. As I sat down, A.L. was standing by my seat offering amendments to correct the flaws in my bill.

While this incident was largely a personal one, I think it demonstrates the kind of person and public servant A.L. Philpott was. He knew immediately this was in violation of the state constitution. He challenged the bill because he had such love of the law that he wanted no chance that an error might slip by. He had such compassion for members that he was there to help always.

While in office, I have had the pleasure of serving under A.L. during his tenure as Majority Leader and then as Speaker. We became very close personal friends. I have never known a more ethical and principled person. His dedication to Virginia is exemplified by his courage and fortitude in his service to her. Not many realize that his fight against cancer necessitated his having an operation every even-numbered year from 1972 until his death. He overcame unimaginable pain and suffering when performing his duties as Speaker, both on the floor of the House of Delegates and at functions where he represented the General Assembly.

Lastly, his loyalty was unchallenged and unequalled. This loyalty extended to his business, professional and personal lives.

Recently, in a very large room filled with people who were about to have dinner, A.L. was memorialized for all he had meant to us and the Commonwealth. The din from conversations made it almost impossible to hear the speaker. Yet, when A.L.'s name was

* Member, House of Delegates, Virginia General Assembly; Delegate Parker attended the University of Virginia and is President of Parker Oil Company in South Hill, Virginia.

mentioned, a silence fell over the group. You could have heard a pin drop! I think this says it all about the gentleman. He loved and was loved — gave and received — assisted without thinking or expecting anything in return.

I thank God He allowed this great man's path to cross with mine and that I was given the opportunity of calling him friend.