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A DEDICATION TO B.J. BRABHAM

The University of Richmond Law Review respectfully dedicates this issue to the memory of Professor B.J. Brabham, 1930-1995. Professor Brabham was a member of the faculty of the T.C. Williams School of Law from 1973 until 1992 and is remembered here by colleague Peter Swisher.

The law school community was saddened to learn of the death of Professor Emeritus B.J. Brabham who died November 10, 1995 at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife of forty years Joe Anne, and by his two daughters, Sheryl Merritt of Yorktown and Becky Spicer of Richmond.

B.J. joined the T.C. Williams Law School faculty in 1973, coming to us from the University of Idaho College of Law. Prior to teaching at Idaho, B.J. taught business law at North Texas State University, Southern Methodist University, and the University of Maryland. During his twenty years at the University of Richmond, B.J. taught courses in Contracts, Creditors Rights, Bankruptcy Law, and Jurisprudence. He retired in 1992 from the law school, and planned to write in the area of business law, but he became ill soon thereafter.

B.J. was a native of Texas, graduating with a B.A. degree from Texas A&M in 1951; a J.D. degree from the University of Texas in 1956; an M.A. degree from North Texas State University in 1962; and an LL.M. degree from New York University in 1966. He served as an infantry platoon leader in the Korean War, and he was awarded the Purple Heart for war wounds, and the Silver Star for bravery. B.J. never talked much about Korea, except one afternoon when I was sharing some of my experiences in Vietnam, and B.J. opened up and spoke at length about his similar experiences in Korea. Korea and Vietnam had many painful and sobering memories for both of us.

For five years, B.J. directed and taught in the summer Council for Legal Education Opportunities Program at the University of Richmond Law School. CLEO was established as a preparatory program for minority and disadvantaged college graduates who wished to attend law school, and B.J. was instrumental in bringing the CLEO Program to T.C. Williams Law School. B.J. felt very strongly about the need to encourage and support minority law students, and he was justly proud of his important work with the CLEO Program in Richmond. A number of his former CLEO students who attended law schools throughout the country still kept in contact with B.J. many years later.

B.J. was active in Democratic Party politics in Virginia on a local

and statewide basis, and he served as an advisor to several political candidates, and a campaign manager to some. He was also past president of the Bellevue Civic Association, and a member of the City of Richmond Personnel Board.

Joe Anne has received many notes from B.J.'s former law students expressing their fond memories of his classes, and of B.J.'s uncanny ability to "spin a yarn" and tell a number of memorable stories in class. B.J. also served as faculty advisor for the Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity at T.C. Williams, and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that I first met my future wife Karen in the middle of B.J.'s swimming pool at one of his memorable Delta Theta Phi fraternity parties, even though it was not a pool party. Thereafter, Karen and I spent many enjoyable evenings with B.J. and Joe Anne, and with our mutual friends former Professor Bob Stevenson and his wife Iris.

B.J.'s wit and enthusiasm, his innumerable stories masterfully delivered in that slow Texas drawl, and his abiding concern and support for students and faculty colleagues alike over a period of twenty years at the University of Richmond Law School will be greatly missed. Accordingly, the law school community expresses its thanks, its sympathy, and its deep sense of loss to Joe Anne and to Sheryl and Becky.

Peter N. Swisher
Professor of Law