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Men Who Lived As Well As Taught the Law: A Dedication to Professor Londo Brown, Professor Henry Collins, and Professor Marlyn Lugar

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**MEN WHO *LIVED* AS WELL AS *TAUGHT* THE
LAW: A DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR LONDO
BROWN, PROFESSOR HENRY COLLINS, AND
PROFESSOR MARLYN LUGAR**

FOREST J. BOWMAN*

Since we gathered last to celebrate Law School Day, three former members of our faculty—three professors emeritus who were, coincidentally, also graduates of this law school—have passed away

. . .

- . . . Professor Londo Brown,
- . . . Professor Henry Collins, and
- . . . Professor Marlyn Lugar.

It is really quite difficult to know what to say about their passing that will be meaningful, for all the words and expressions that naturally come to mind sound somehow trite and overdone. Perhaps this is to be expected, for these three were a remarkable trio.

I was one of the lucky many who studied under all three and one of the first things that comes to mind as I think of them is that I am a different person today—a better person—because they were my teachers. For they were more than merely teachers of the law . . . they were examples of what all of us should be—men who *LIVED* the law as well as *TAUGHT* it.

Together—working with others to be sure—these three set the course of this law school for over a generation. And what they demanded of us as students and fledgling lawyers is now reflected in the caliber and character of those who are leaders of our Bar.

* Professor of Law, West Virginia University College of Law. In its original form, this dedication was given as a speech during the recent Law School Day activities at the West Virginia University College of Law honoring the contributions of Professor Londo Brown, Professor Henry Collins, and Professor Marlyn Lugar.

They were all three demanding teachers, not in the trivial or harassing sense of the word “demanding,” but in the sense that they required:

that we push ourselves,

that we perform up to their expectations, and

that we be the best that we could be.

And in the process they made us better than we had ever dreamed we could possibly be.

You had only to experience the quick sarcasm of Henry Collins . . . or the thundering roar of Marlyn Lugar . . . or the icy glare of Londo Brown . . . ONE TIME to know that—whatever you had done or failed to do—it would NEVER happen again!

Yet we were not afraid of them. They led us through the study of the law, not out of a sense of fear, but out of a sense of respect, a respect that at times bordered on awe.

The integrity, faith, and vision of these three were embodied in their work. And the hundreds of us who benefitted from their enlightened and dedicated teaching—as students or as colleagues—can give thanks for their many years of fruitful work.

But most of all we can be thankful for their example, for what they gave us when perhaps they were unaware that they were still giving.

And now they are gone, it is easy to underestimate the human bond we had with them. The truth is that those of us who are their former students and colleagues and who still tramp through the vast complexities of human life and death will be forever imprinted and linked by our association with these three great teachers. And in a curious way we can consider ourselves fortunate that as we reconfirm from time to time our own identities, it will be impossible to see ourselves as we are, without understanding that these three helped shape us in large part.

Perhaps William Cowper said it best:

“How sweet their mem’ry still!
But they have left an aching void,
The world can never fill.”¹

1. W. COWPER, “Walking with God,” in *THE POEMS OF WILLIAM COWPER* 139 (1980).

