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Ed Ward

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Memorial

11

ED WARD

To me one of the greatest tributes to a person is for others to emulate him and preserve his memory. It is in the minds, hearts and lives of others that a great person lives on. Those of us who knew Ed need no written reminder of the void his death created. It is to those of you who were deprived of the opportunity of his companionship that I direct this memorial.

I enjoyed the good fortune to watch Ed from several vantage points and witness the achievement of his dream. We first met when we were both students. His brilliance and the success he enjoyed as a student set him apart. We did not get to know each other well until he returned to UND in the role of a teacher after completing a year of graduate studies at Harvard. I was still a student then, but the traditional distance between students and teachers never got a chance to develop in our relationship. We worked together on various projects. All who worked with him learned from his thorough understanding, and were set at ease by his confident manner. I have often asked other students who had Ed as a teacher about their thoughts of him. Their responses indicated Ed would become one of the most valuable teachers at the law school.

He would have been successful at anything he chose to do. He chose a simpler life. He dreamed of owning a small country home where he and Sharon and their future family could raise horses and let time pass around them. He talked about some day buying the wooded acreage around his home and preserving it for the peace that forests bring. His strong body strained to construct a corral and fences. He told of the many long hours at night he worked at his desk upstairs in his home preparing for his classes the next day. He counseled me and many other students in classes and career objectives, and developed a rapport with us that inspired respect yet cultivated friendship.

Ed achieved his dream. He had a warm, fun-loving family, his country home, his horses and his teaching career. His death robbed him of a longer enjoyment of it, and us of a truly inspirational friend.

I feel a loss for those of you who did not get a chance to know him. His death created a void at the law school that will forever be an immeasurable loss to those in the future who will be deprived of his presence. But he will be reflected in the lives of those of us who knew him. Thus, he was as successful at life as he was in everything else. It will be partly through such inadequate attempts to give tribute as this that his daughter, Heather, will learn of her father. She can take comfort in our pride in knowing Ed, and our memories of the way he lived.