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Dianne Doughty
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MEMORIAL
LAWRENCE KENT McCOLLUM
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 26, 2000
UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

LAWRENCE KENT McCOLLUM was born on August 24, 1947, in Los Angeles, California, and died in an automobile accident in Shreveport, Louisiana, on August 28, 2000, at the age of 53. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elvis Alton McCollum and Ann Libby McCollum. Larry attended public schools in Minden, Louisiana, and was a 1969 R.O.T.C. Distinguished Military graduate of Northwestern State University, earning a B.A. degree. At Northwestern he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership honorary fraternity, and of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. In 1972, he received a J.D. degree from L.S.U. Law School. There he was a Robert Lee Tullis Moot Court Competition semi-finalist.

Larry saw the practice of law as a way to help people. He began the practice of law as an Assistant District Attorney for Rapides Parish in 1972. He began private practice in Shreveport in 1975. Larry was always a sole practitioner, sharing office space first with Stacey Freeman and Bill Hall until 1978. He then shared office space with Ted Thomas until 1981 when he joined his close friends Mike Powell (the "Red") and John Wilson on Stoner Avenue where he shared office space for the last nineteen years. And from this convenient location Larry was able to engage in what the family termed "dietary infidelity" at lunches with such good friends as Judge Charles Scott, Jerry Tyler, and Tommy Johnson. Dianne wanted Larry to "eat healthy", but Larry enjoyed fried chicken and hamburgers.

He loved his country. In Larry's "other career," he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, serving as an officer for 20 years. His military awards include Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon. He enjoyed reading military history, particularly Civil War

history. His Army Reserve friend, Bud Dean, said of Larry, "He had a great sense of humor and was truly at ease within himself. He could take a joke as well as give one."

Larry was devoted to his church, having joined First United Methodist 23 years ago following his marriage to Dianne. I feel honored to deliver this Memorial because my wife and I have been church friends of Larry, Dianne, Bill and Charles for many years. I was also Charles' eleventh grade Sunday School teacher. My experience has made me aware that it is normally difficult to convince high school age children to attend church and Sunday School regularly. Larry and Dianne were able to do that with their children. I wish I knew their secret. Larry participated in many church activities. He was to have taught a Disciple Bible Study Class this fall and had already begun preparing using notes and outlines borrowed from Reverend Willis Dear, who conducted Larry's funeral.

If you did not know Larry, you might think that the law, the military, the church, and, oh yes, L.S.U. football, would have left him little time for his family. Nothing could have been further from the truth, however. Larry and Dianne had a wonderful marriage and two fine sons. I cannot think of a greater honor for a man than to have someone select him to be his father. This is the honor Larry received when Bill chose to be adopted and to carry Larry's name as his own middle and last names. In his eulogy at Larry's funeral, William Lawrence McCollum said, "You knew him as Larry. I knew him as Dad. Dad entered my life when he married Mom twenty-four years ago. He became my father; I became his son." Bill and his wife, Lacey, who live in Houston, Texas, have two daughters -- Alden, Larry and Dianne's 20-month-old grandchild, and Madeline, who was born on October 9th. Larry and Dianne's son, Charles Lawrence McCollum, is a student in the Honors College at L.S.U. in Baton Rouge.

I could mention the specific attributes of good lawyers and good men, all of which Larry possessed, but those of you who knew him do not need to be reminded of these qualities. His life of devotion to work, to country, to church and most importantly to family is testimony to the fact that he was a lawyer and a man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

And now to his widow, Dianne, his sons, Bill and Charles, to his host of friends and to this Honorable Court, we submit this brief Memorial to the memory of LAWRENCE KENT

MCCOLLUM and ask that it be inscribed in the records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that certified copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 26th day of October 2000.


FRANK BRIGHT