

William B. Spong, Jr.

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WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR.
*A Tribute from the
United States Ambassador to Japan*

Bill Spong came to the Senate with a wealth of experience gained both in the Virginia State Senate and in the Virginia House of Delegates, in addition to his experience in private practice. Born and educated in Virginia, Bill Spong passed the bar there in 1947. Before going into the practice of law, he spent a year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, a move which contributed to his far-reaching and international perspective on the issues of the day. Returning from Scotland, Bill practiced in Portsmouth until his election to the United States Senate in 1966. It was there that I first met Bill Spong. Our association throughout his six years in the Senate was a fruitful and productive one. We shared a mutual interest in foreign affairs, and he brought a different perspective from his European experiences which helped to complement my exposure to Asian affairs.

Following his years in the Senate, Bill Spong served as counsel to the Committee for the Conduct of Foreign Relations. Here again we shared common interests and many times I came to appreciate Bill's perspicacious views and carefully formed opinions.

Finally, following many years of productive public service, Bill joined the Marshall-Wythe School of Law as dean in 1976. He brought to this post the acumen sharpened through years of private practice in law as well as his service in the United States Senate and the legislative bodies of his home state.

I know that Bill fully merits the high esteem in which he is held by not only his colleagues and the students at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, but by all who have known him. I am proud to count Bill among my close associates and am very happy that the *William and Mary Law Review* is dedicating the 1985-86 volume to him. No worthier recipient could be so highly honored.

Mike Mansfield
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