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RICHARD E. WALCK
*A Tribute from the
Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law
College of William and Mary*

Richard Eugene Walck has made a significant contribution to the life of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. The extent and breadth of that contribution, as is often the case with teachers, will not be measured fully until years from now when the accomplishments of his former students are weighed. Nevertheless, at a time when Professor Walck has just been given emeritus status, it is an easy and pleasant task to acknowledge what he has meant to his students and colleagues.

Dick Walck, affectionately known to fourteen classes of first-year law students as "the Colonel," joined the law faculty at William and Mary in 1970, after a distinguished career in the United States Air Force. Following overseas service in World War II, Dick attended law school at the University of Virginia as an Air Force Officer. At Virginia, he compiled a splendid academic record, serving as an editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. Upon graduation from Virginia, Dick became a Staff Judge Advocate with the United States Air Force, serving from 1950 until 1970 when he retired as Staff Judge Advocate of the Technical Air Command, Langley Field, Virginia.

In 1970, Dick Walck came to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at a time when enrollment was being doubled. He arrived with a major asset, his wife Becky, and together they entertained many students who found the Walck home a pleasant haven from the rigors of legal studies. During a period of growth and rapid change, Professor Walck brought orderliness and a sense of humor to the Marshall-Wythe faculty. His ability to combine discipline with civility, patience and understanding is not universally encountered among law professors. It was obvious to any observer that Professor Walck loved teaching and relished contact with his students in and out of the classroom. Dick Walck, possessed of a towering presence that commands attention and respect, succeeded in conveying to those he taught that he cared about them.

When Professor Walck became Associate Dean for Administration, his disciplined perspective, combined with civility and understanding, flowered into a greater contribution to the law school as

he demonstrated a remarkable talent for listening. For three years, Dick Walck massaged the egos of his faculty colleagues and listened to the woes of countless students with patience, good humor and common sense, somehow conveying that he was sympathetic to the plight of the petitioner.

The Dean for Administration is charged with overall responsibility for the care and upkeep of the law building. Gentle chiding, obdurate tenacity and periodic stroking spurred those at Buildings and Grounds to a degree of performance that has created and maintained an environment in which students and faculty take pride.

The regard and affection with which colleagues and students recognized what Dick Walck's presence had meant to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law was much in evidence at the close of this past academic session. A significant sum of money was raised and contributed to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law Foundation by many students, friends, staff and faculty to establish the Richard E. Walck Scholarship, an action unprecedented in the history of the law school. It is appropriate that a Volume of the *William and Mary Law Review* be dedicated to this thoughtful and generous man.

Dean William B. Spong, Jr.
June, 1984