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Tribute to John J. Tigert VI

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TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. TIGERT VI

KATHRYN A. LEDIG*

JOHN WAS A larger-than-life person of the sort that one rarely has the opportunity to encounter in life. Everything about him was big—from his height to his heart, to his many talents, to his intellect, to his passions. John felt strongly about everything. Not only was he convinced of the correctness of his position but he very soon would have you convinced as well!

I was fortunate to work for John as a young lawyer. He was unsparing of his time and training. John was a perfectionist, but he never expected more out of others than he expected of himself. Although John could be effusive with his praise, more often he properly focused on the two percent that could have been improved rather than on the ninety-eight percent that was well done. The net result, however unappreciated by the recipient at the time, was a much improved product and a much improved lawyer.

John was an incredibly intelligent and talented person. He was interested in politics, current events, geography, and military history, among other things. He had a particular talent (which he never fully appreciated) for instantly sizing up a case or situation and coming up with a great strategy. It was as if a light bulb would go on for John, allowing him to see the solution to a problem that one had wrestled with for hours.

John's lifelong passion, of course, was aviation. He loved everything about airplanes, both big and small. Although he enjoyed the military flying in the Navy and the Air Force, the years he flew for Pan Am and instructed at the Flight Academy were the highlights of John's life. (John's other passion was the Washington Redskins but enough about that in a journal published in Dallas!)

I have been amazed in the weeks and months following John's death at the number of people he touched in ways big and small. John was a one-of-a-kind man who will be missed by many.

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