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MEMORIAL—JOHN E. KENNEDY

EDWARD J. DEVITT*

THE FIRST TIME I met John Kennedy was the day he walked into my chambers to apply to be my law clerk. He was about twenty-four years old then, and I liked him immediately. He had a wonderful personality and a delightful sense of humor even at that young age. We hit it off from the start. He was a Minnesota boy born and raised in the small town of Hutchinson. He attended high school in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he graduated in 1952. After high school, he attended Notre Dame University where he earned his Ph.B in 1956 and an LL.B in 1959. John later attended Yale University where he earned his LL.M. in 1964 and J.S.D. in 1970.

John was a delight to have around. His warmth and charm radiated from a smile that would light up the world. He was an excellent law clerk — one of the best I've had. He was a meticulous researcher and a gifted writer. He worked painstakingly to accomplish the task set before him. After his stint as a law clerk, John kept in touch. We looked forward to hearing from him because his letters were not only informative and interesting, they contained the warmth and humor of the writer himself.

John's accomplishments — academically, professionally, personally — are truly extensive. His teaching experiences, his professional and public service endeavors, his publications, are far too numerous to list here. John was always striving to accomplish more. With all of his aca-

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ademic and professional achievements, John never lost the ability to achieve a balance between scholastic excellence and down-to-earth, common sense midwestern appeal. As the years went by and I learned of each new accomplishment, I realized what a remarkable young man I had had as my fifth law clerk back in 1959-60. I was very proud of him.

It is always a pleasure for me to share in the personal and professional accomplishments of my former law clerks. They are like family to me, and John was particularly conscientious about keeping us posted on events in his life. The news of his marriage to Jan Lewis in 1963 was happily received. The births of John, Matt and Megan in 1964, 1969 and 1972 were duly reported. Every year John went off to Coast Guard Reserve duty and never failed to send us a short synopsis of the goings-on wherever the Guard happened to be serving that year. In his travels back and forth across the country, John never failed to report in if he was anywhere near the Twin Cities. And we welcomed him with open arms.

Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of working with John on the United States Judicial Conference Committee to Consider Standards for Admission to Practice in the Federal Courts. The membership consisted of federal circuit and district judges, attorneys, law school deans, student consultants and staff. The committee was in existence for about four years, culminating its assignment in September 1979 at which time the Final Report of the Committee was presented to the Judicial Conference of the United States. John served with distinction as the Reporter for this committee. His considerable contribution to the work of the committee was highly regarded by all who served with him. On a personal level, it was an opportunity to see and work with an old friend, and I think it was a mutually enjoyable experience for each of us.

The news of his death shocked and saddened all of us. We loved "our" John, and his death will leave a great void in our lives. He will be deeply missed.