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Tribute to A. Kenneth Pye

Joseph T. Sneed

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TRIBUTE TO A. KENNETH PYE

Joseph T. Sneed

President A. Kenneth Pye was primarily responsible for my appointment as Dean of the Duke Law School in the fall of 1970. I shall always be grateful to him not only for the honor of serving in that position, but also because it was a very large step toward the position in which I now serve.

Ken did more than that, however. He offered unobtrusive, but always welcome, advice during my all too brief decanal tenure. Time and time again his advice helped me avoid difficulties either with the law school faculty or, because of his position in President Sanford's staff, with the administration of Duke University.

Ken was that rare creature in the academic universe—a brilliant scholar and a superb administrator. His former colleagues of the Duke Law School will attest to his scholarship and will join me in expressing my high praise of his almost uncanny ability of knowing how to resolve difficult problems of university administration involving sensitive and proud people. Moreover, he always sought solutions other than cautious avoidance. Of course, no solution of such problems will leave all parties highly pleased, but in Ken's case all knew that he had listened to their plea and acted in the best interest of the university as a whole.

In short, the Kenneth Pye that I knew was learned, just, and honorable. And he was my friend. Too soon he was taken from us.

