Remarks on the Passing of Howard Taubenfeld

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HOWARD TAUBENFELD*

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Rita, Robin, David, Marc, grandchildren, relatives and
friends of Howard Taubenfeld and friends all. It is an
honor and a privilege for me to participate in this memorial ser-
vice for Howard Taubenfeld. Following Howard's undergradu-
ate degree from Columbia College, he completed his law degree
and a doctorate in philosophy at Columbia. He practiced law
and taught in California and New York and then came to the
SMU Law School in 1961. He and I began a colleagueship on
the faculty that lasted for over 20 years.

He brought to SMU a distinction in research and teaching. I
was dean for 15 years, and I can state without reservation or ex-
ception that students year after year consistently praised Howard
for his teaching. He expected careful and thoughtful prepara-
tion and sought to develop within his students a capacity for in-
cisive and critical reasoning. Yet withal he was gracious,
courteous, and considerate. Indeed, from time to time I read
student comments that he should be dean and I should quit
immediately. Deans expect slings and arrows, but in this case,
they were probably right, for considering his unflagging and un-
failing good humor and seemingly boundless patience he would
have performed very well in the position.

Howard's interests were many, varied and eclectic. He of-
ffered a seminar in law and technology with the Engineering
School in order to provide law students and engineering stu-
dents with a better understanding of the interaction of legal
rules and rapidly developing technology.

Professor Carney and I for many years offered a seminar for
law and theology students in which we explored the various ethi-

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honoring Howard Taubenfeld held at Southern Methodist University in March
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cal and legal dilemmas that beset the human predicament. When I could no longer continue that enterprise Howard took over in my place and performed with his customary excellence.

Rita and Howard were a splendid research team and did numerous projects together that have been published, widely received, and highly regarded.

Finally, colleagues and friends, the best memorial tribute to Howard will not be from any of us here but will be in the minds and hearts of his family and countless hundreds of former students who have been influenced by his scholarship and teaching. Howard professed the law for 35 years and although he leaves us in body, that 35-year legacy continues in spirit for countless years to come in many able and respected practicing lawyers throughout the state, the nation, and abroad and we celebrate that lasting joy in this liturgy today.

I return to the point of beginning: it is an honor and a privilege to participate in this memorial, and I am deeply grateful to Rita and the family for inviting me to offer these words of appreciation for a most esteemed colleague.