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Joseph R. Wenk - 1944-1979

J. Willard O'Brien

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In Memoriam

JOSEPH R. WENK

1944-1979

To

JOSEPH R. WENK

The Board of Editors of

THE VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW

humbly dedicate this volume.

JOSEPH R. WENK—1944-1979

Professor Joseph R. Wenk was an extraordinary young man. His life was filled with purpose. He touched, through his law reform efforts, the lives of many, including many who never knew him and now, never will. He touched, through his teaching, the lives of still other men and women, some of whom, because of him, will have the desire and the ability to continue his work on behalf of the ill and the poor. His death impoverishes each of us.

The Villanova Law School faculty, greatly saddened by Professor Wenk's death, adopted a very thoughtful resolution which recounts many of his achievements. The resolution, beautifully copied by a calligraphist, will be presented to Professor Wenk's family. A photographic copy of the scroll follows these brief remarks of mine. Professor Donald W. Dowd, perhaps the member of our faculty who had the closest personal relationship with Professor Wenk, has written a moving tribute to our young colleague.

A law professor's legacy includes the work, both good and bad, done by former students upon whose lives the teacher had a signifi-

cant influence. A law dean's legacy includes the work, both good and bad, done by former faculty members upon whose lives the dean had a significant influence. I taught Professor Wenk (1966-1969) and when he became a member of our faculty (1973-1979) I was his dean. I do not pretend, even to myself, that I had a significant impact on Professor Wenk's life and, therefore, his good works, but if I had any role to play, however small, a very important part of my legacy died with him.

The Joseph R. Wenks are rare. To have been able to enjoy him during his very short life was, perhaps, a greater reward than I deserved. I will cherish those times anyway. Thank you Joseph.

J. WILLARD O'BRIEN *

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