

NO GREATER WISDOM THAN KINDNESS

One of the dubious honors of a long life is that of bearing witness to the passing of so many dear friends. Each loss steals not only a bit of my history, but also some of the brightness of the days ahead. And Bill Holloway brought so much brightness to the world that his loss is especially profound.

I'll hardly be the first to praise Bill Holloway's overwhelming kindness, but he was quite simply the kindest and most sincerely compassionate man I have ever known. It is his kindness that seems to have left a permanent mark on everyone who ever met him—however briefly. And it is his kindness that remains his distinguishing trait, even to those who worked at his side every day—and if you know Judge Holloway's work ethic, you know that I mean *every day*.

I have never known a man more dedicated to his work than Bill Holloway. By the time I came to the federal courthouse, his extraordinary office hours were already the stuff of legend. My colleagues reported that Judge Holloway's car was in its assigned spot each Saturday morning without fail. Having utter faith in the honesty of my colleagues, I never personally ventured downtown on a Saturday to verify the legend.

Bill Holloway's dedication was matched only by his brilliance. He was a gifted writer and a preeminent student of the law and the legal profession. I've noticed that men of his enormous accomplishment and influence often maintain an air of pleasant courtesy while scanning the crowd for a more promising opportunity. There was never even a trace of that in Judge Holloway. I believe he was incapable of viewing another human being as a means to an end. He was interested in everyone he encountered, and he genuinely sought the best *in* them and *for* them.

Judge Holloway was also an extraordinary mentor and teacher. Over the course of his long career he had eighty law clerks. *Eighty* law clerks! And I'd challenge you to find one of them that speaks of him with anything but complete admiration. Perhaps the greatest testament to his skill as a tutor is the fact that three of his former clerks currently occupy

the federal bench. Judge Jerome Holmes and Judge Bob Bacharach of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge John Dowdell of the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma all reflect the rigorous intellect and the daunting work ethic that were Judge Holloway's trademarks.

I myself am fortunate to have drawn from Judge Holloway's deep well of knowledge and insight—which he offered freely and without a hint of condescension. You might not necessarily expect him, the son of a governor, and me, the son of a bootlegger, to share much in the way of life experiences and philosophies. But while Judge Holloway's perspective might have differed from mine, our conclusions had an uncanny tendency to align. On that basis, we became great friends. Naturally, the most compatible of friends must occasionally fail to see eye to eye. And when even his championship debating skills failed to win me to his side of a rare impasse, he treated my opinion with consideration and respect. I could not have had a more loyal ally and advocate.

Bill Holloway's loyalty invariably inspired the same in others. I know no Judge could have wished for a more talented and devoted staff than his. I have it on good authority that his senior law clerk, Doug McBee, never intended to commit so many years to the Court of Appeals, but his dedication to and affection for Judge Holloway redirected his plans. Truly there has never been a more effective and diligent law clerk than Doug, and Judge Holloway treasured his work and his friendship. And I suspect law clerk Cullen Sweeny has learned more in his tenure with Judge Holloway than he will in a decade of the successful law practice that awaits him. I know Judge Holloway greatly valued the enormous contribution Cullen made during his term. And of course he adored his administrative assistant, Susan McKey, and his recently retired administrative assistant, Nancy Smiley, was part of his family. Both are miraculously efficient and capable, and they have been steadfast in their support of Judge Holloway and his work. Honestly, no judge, with the possible exception of myself, ever had such able and faithful support.

I believe it is in his family that Bill Holloway perpetually found inspiration for his service and the source of all his joy. Helen is the unshakeable love of his life. The pride he showed in his son and namesake Bill and his beloved daughter Gentry was boundless. And he was a doting grandfather to Jack and Josh.

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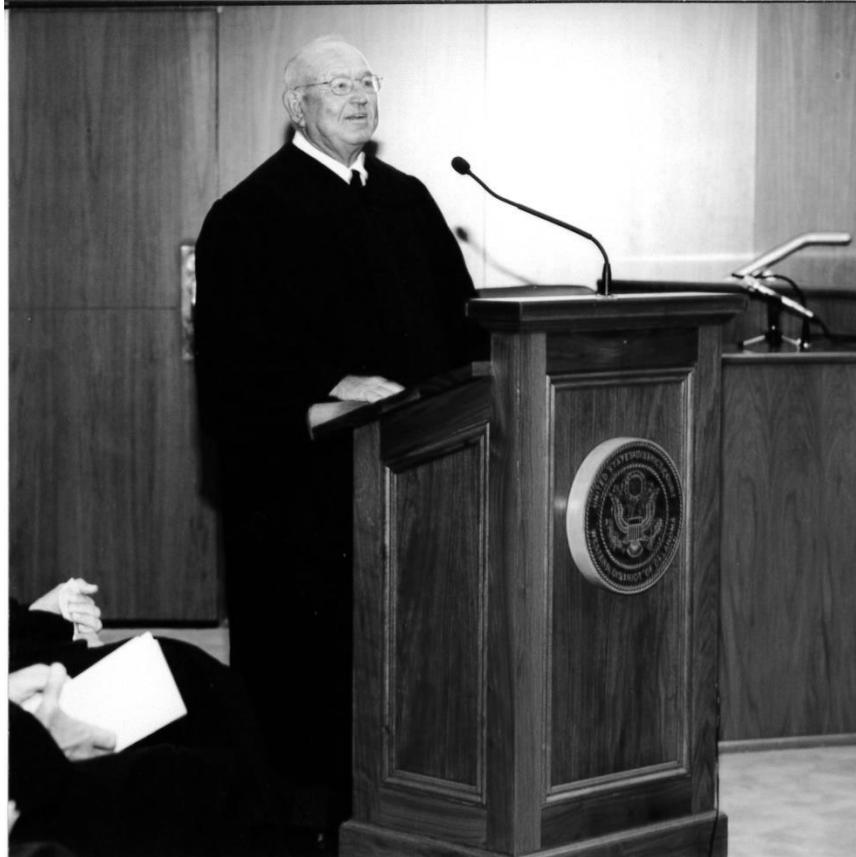
No Greater Wisdom Than Kindness

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Although I can't help but think that all of us are diminished by the loss of this very great and very good man, I also see that he added much, much more to the world than he takes away. I once heard a Chinese proverb that states, "there is no greater wisdom than kindness." Judge Holloway was the proof of that proverb—the kindest and the wisest of men. He is, and will continue to be, sorely missed.

The Honorable Lee R. West
Senior Judge
United States District Court, Western District of Oklahoma





*The Honorable Lee R. West presenting at the
30th Anniversary Proceeding for Judge Holloway*