

WHERE MAN'S GLORY MOST BEGINS AND ENDS

In the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Quotations*, the subject "Justice" is immediately followed by the subject "Kindness." It occurred to me that when asked to describe The Honorable William J. Holloway, Jr., most anyone would likely begin with those same two words. Surely, "gentleman" and "scholar" would compete, as well. Those feelings toward the dear and good man were virtually unanimous.

I know of no one who sought justice with more commitment, effort, and dedication. His kindness was as natural to him as breathing, and he showered his kindness on all. Whoever coined the expression "a gentleman and a scholar" undoubtedly didn't know Bill Holloway. It just seems like he or she did.

One of my favorite personal experiences about Judge Holloway was a touching conversation I had with his distinguished father, former Oklahoma Governor William J. Holloway, Sr. Governor Holloway was a family friend and, in semi-retirement, had an office on the same floor as the firm as the one I was with. I enjoyed chatting with him when we passed in the hall. When it was announced that President Johnson had nominated Bill for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, I chanced to meet the governor in the hallway and expressed how thrilled and happy we all were and congratulated him warmly. Governor Holloway paused, leaned closer on his cane, looked me in the eye, and said, a bit tearfully, "Yes, Ralph, we're so very proud of Billy. You know, Ralph, there's only one Court higher!"

There hasn't been a judge in the federal courthouse who has not experienced the discomfort of consistently arriving or leaving the courthouse parking lot without seeing Judge Holloway's car already, or still, there. And, there isn't a federal trial judge who hasn't known the satisfaction of knowing a case on appeal to Judge Holloway would be given ultimate care and meticulous review. He left no stone unturned, big case or small. Equal justice under law was his total commitment.

Few of us have known many of Judge Holloway's qualities as a judge and as a person. He is unique in that and we treasure his friendship. I like how Yeats put it:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends,
And say my glory was I had such friends.

The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson, Retired
United States District Court, Western District of Oklahoma



*The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson presenting at the
30th Anniversary Proceeding*