



William Lawrence

November 21, 1922 - January 25, 2010

“Well done, thy good and faithful servant.” Tyler attorney, Wm. D. “Bill” Lawrence, Jr., went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on January 25, 2010 in his home surrounded by family. A celebration of Bill’s life is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas. The family will receive friends at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, Tyler, Texas on Friday, January 29, from 5 to 7. A private burial will be held prior to the service. Born in Paris, Texas, on November 21, 1922 to the late Elizabeth O. Lawrence and W. Dewey Lawrence, Bill moved with his family to Tyler in 1931 and enjoyed a wonderful childhood with many close friends. He attended Gary Elementary School, Hogg Junior High School and Tyler High School. It was with particular pride, enthusiasm and a mischievous sparkle in his eye, that even in the last years of his life he could sing all verses of the Hogg Junior High School Fight Song. He interrupted his college career to join the armed services during the Second World War. Assigned to bases in the “heel” of Italy; he flew B-24 Liberators on a total of 24 missions in the European Theater of Operations. Throughout Bill’s life, he delighted in his fellowship with his flight crew buddies. Following the war, Bill completed his undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin and graduated from Southern Methodist University Law School. He met Dorothy McGuire in 1946 and they were married September 12, 1948. With a serving mission, Bill practiced law with his father and brother in the firm of Lawrence & Lawrence – affectionately

referred to as the “One Quart Law Firm; one pint and two half pints.” He had a great fondness for his “little brother,” the late F. Lee Lawrence, with whom Bill was proud to practice law for over 40 years. For decades, Bill represented many businesses, large and small, as well as individuals from all walks of life - all with the same passion, expertise and care. He was a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and a member of the American Academy of Hospital Attorneys. His commitment to service went beyond his practice of law – without hesitation he worked in the community that he loved. He was a member of the Board of Adjustments of the City of Tyler, served as President of the Tyler Lions Club, District Chairman of the American Red Cross, Chairman of the Board of the Smith County Chapter of the Salvation Army, President of the Smith County Chapter on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, President of the Texas Rose Festival Association, and President of the Smith County Bar Association. During Bill Clements’ tenure as Governor, he appointed Bill to serve on the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission. Bill served in legal and leadership capacities with the East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System for more than 30 years. In 1977, he served as Chairman of the Board of East Texas Hospital Foundation (now ETMC) and was currently in the role of Director Emeritus on the ETMC Foundation Board. In 2005, Bill was presented with the Justinian Award by the Smith County Bar Association in recognition of his professional excellence, exemplifying integrity, leadership, service to the community, and service to the legal profession. An Eagle Scout as a boy, Bill also took on various leadership roles in the scouting movement in East Texas. After many years of service, the East Texas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored Bill with the highest award which a scout council is allowed to give for adult leadership: the Silver Beaver. After this award, he continued to serve another 35 years, much of that time as an executive board member and voluntary legal counsel. He loved the Lord and worshiped Jesus Christ. In that commitment he served variously in the Christian Church and Fifth St. Presbyterian Church as a deacon and elder. Bill also served on the Board of Directors for Pine Cove Camp. He was for

many years an officer and member of the Board of Directors of Don Anderson Ministries of Tyler, Texas, and upon his retirement served as a regular volunteer of that organization. Bill is survived by his devoted wife of over 60 years, Dorothy McGuire Lawrence. They had three children – William David, Charles Frederick (who died at infancy) and Ann Lawrence Tague. They have four wonderful grandchildren, W. Dewey Lawrence, III, Amanda Jane Lawrence, James William Woods and Spencer Lawrence Woods and one treasured great-granddaughter, Emma Riley Woods. Also much loved and respected is the wife of David, Kathleen S. Lawrence and the husband of Ann, Jeff Tague. Bill is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Jerlean Hudson is valued beyond words for her many years of faithful care of the Lawrence family. Wm. D. Lawrence, Jr. is remembered as a distinguished lawyer and humble gentleman; a man of faultless character and the recipient of many richly deserved honors; a mentor of men, a fine administrator; a man of courage and determination; and above all, a warm friend. Honorary Pallbearers include John W. Hardin, R. E. “Peppy” Blount, Elmer G. Ellis and Bill’s dear friends who predeceased him to heaven. Bill had the upmost respect and appreciation for East Texas Medical Center, its staff, and his personal physicians. Not only did he admire his physicians professionally, but Bill enjoyed a special friendship with each of them. The family expresses a special thank you to all of Bill’s caregivers with a personal thank you to Dennis Waller for his many hours of devotion and exceptional care. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bible Teaching Resources, P.O. Box 6611, Tyler, Texas 75711 or the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Mr. Lawrence had a contagious smile! He and Dorothy always asked about the boys during church. May God's love and warmth encompass you and your family along with His strength to give you and your family strength and courage. You are both greatly loved and Bill will be greatly missed!*

*In His arms,
Eddie, MaryAnn, Christian and Jules*

MaryAnn and Eddie Wills - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ *Dorothy & Family,
We were so sad to hear of the passing of Bill. What a wonderful man and we loved him dearly!
God bless,
Gay & Sage Tyra*

Gay Tyra - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Bill will always be remembered in my heart as a very loving and generous employer. He consistently treated me with respect and consideration and was the first to respond to any crisis for me or my family. I loved him dearly. This earth needs more good men like him. The joyful news is that our time on earth may be short but we will get to continue our relationship in heaven forever. Love and empathy to the family.*

Margaret Martin - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ I only knew Bill during his time on the Board of Directors of ETMC Tyler but that time was very special. Bill was very professional and a very nice person to have known. Judy and I send our condolences to the family.

Robert M (Bob) Tippens - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ What a great loss for his many friends here on earth, but what a great gain for heaven. Bill and his whole family have been friends of ours for the past 43 years. I never met a man who was more of a gentleman. He truly cared about people and treated everyone with love and respect. He was an inspiration to me as a boy growing into manhood when my family came to Tyler many years ago. Lydia and I express our deepest sympathy and love to Dorothy, David, Ann, and all of their families.

Jim Gipson - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ The Lawrence family has always been very special to me and my family. Bill had a big smile and handshake every time you saw him. His friendship and wise advice has meant so much to me over the years . Both Bill and Dorothy have been a blessing to my life and I will miss him. May God be with his family in this most difficult time.

Jeff D. Jones - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ A real friend, A great sense of humor.

Steve Roberts - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dorothy,

You and Bill have always had a very special place in my heart. One of the wonderful things about Bill was his sense of humor and great smile. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sharon Hinds - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dorothy, Anne, David and All,

We are so sorry that because of the ice and snow we will not be there for Bill's Celebration.

All the "Stradingers" loved Bill because of his love and interest in each one of us! Our visits with he and Dorothy were always Special because Bill knew how to make us all feel very Special!

We are sending our Ambassadors: Mike and Joe, Catherine, Alex, Julia and Ann Magee, but know that you all are in our Prayers especially at this time.

We Love you All,

John and Judi

John & Judi Stradinger - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Dear Dorothy and Family,

Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Bill. He was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor, and a dedicated Christian who truly served our Lord in so many ways.

He will be missed.

Love in Christ,

Kenneth and Pat

Ken and Pat Turman - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dorothy,

Cathy & I want to send our love to you and your family. We always appreciated your friendship.

We have been in Houston for a couple of years and miss our friends in Tyler.

Bill is in a great place and the Lord will look after him.

With our Love,

Bob & Cathy

Bob Fuller - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Dorothy, David, & Ann,

Randy and I were saddened to hear of Bill's passing. I always enjoyed seeing Bill- he was a delight to visit with and such a gentleman! We know Bill was a blessing not only to you, but to all he knew. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

We are so sorry to be unable to attend the Celebration of Bill's life.

Stephenie Roberts

Tommy Tunnell - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Sorry of your loss of such a great Christian husband, father and grandfather. Know he will be deeply missed.*

Love,

Lynda and Doug Morris

Lynda and Doug Morris - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM