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Crystal Wosick

Todd Webb

Wade Webb

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OUR DAD

CRYSTAL WOSICK, TODD WEBB, AND WADE WEBB
ON BEHALF OF JUDGE WEBB'S CHILDREN

We are so proud to contribute to the tribute issue honoring our dad, Rodney Webb. We three siblings are also attorneys and graduates of the University of North Dakota School of Law. We feel very lucky to have been raised by two loving and committed parents, and to have also been touched by the great "love of the law" that our dad possesses.

Our dad was born to Chester and Aylza Webb in Cavalier, North Dakota, in 1935. He joined the North Dakota Army National Guard, graduated from high school, and left home to pursue his dreams of playing football and getting an education at the University of North Dakota. Our dad earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1957 and completed his law degree in 1959. He is a proud graduate of the University of North Dakota!

During his college years, he married our mom Betty, and they went on to have six children: Sharon, Crystal, Todd, Rebecca, Wade, and Susan. Sharon is married to Scott Roche. They live in Grand Forks and have two children, Ian and Conor. Crystal is married to David Wosick. They live in Fargo and have four children: Grant, Hope, Grace, and Miles. Todd is married to Angela. They live in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. They have two boys, Daniel and Jack. Rebecca passed away within days of her birth. Wade resides in Fargo. Susan is married to Jason Yackee, and they reside in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

After graduating from law school, Dad joined Elton Ringsak in private practice in Grafton, North Dakota. He continued to be a partner in the Ringsak, Webb, Rice & Metelmann Law Firm until 1981. Our dad enjoyed the private practice of law. He welcomed us children into his office, although the older ones will remember we were welcomed in to clean, update law books, and answer the telephone when a secretary was out of the office! Dad was the Walsh County State's Attorney from 1967 to 1974. During that same period, he was also the Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of North Dakota, serving the Grafton State School. He went on to hold the position of municipal judge for the city of Grafton from 1975 to 1981. Both the state's attorney and judge positions were part-time and allowed Dad to continue with his law practice. He said many

times how important the work of attorneys was to the lives of the people they serve.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Dad United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota in 1981. He served in that position until 1987 when President Reagan appointed him the United States District Court Judge for the District of North Dakota. He is the first University of North Dakota School of Law graduate to serve as United States District Court Judge for the District of North Dakota, and he is very proud of this fact. Dad elected to take senior status on the bench in December 2001. He continues to work at the same pace as he has in the past and continues to fully enjoy his chosen profession.

Another important aspect of our dad's career has been his military service. He began his career in the North Dakota Army National Guard in 1953, the same year he graduated from high school. He entered as an enlisted soldier and reached the rank of colonel. As an officer, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate General division. He served our country for thirty-one years. We all remember when it came time for him to retire in 1984. He said he could have sealed his resignation letter with his tears. Dad is proud to be an American.

Crystal Wosick is the second daughter of Rodney and Betty Webb. Crystal graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1988. Crystal recalls it was always a blessing to have a dad that loved his job and his life. Dad has always had a positive outlook on life and is such a good role model for his children and grandchildren. When growing up, people would mention Judge Webb's admonitions in the courtroom, such as "nothing good ever happens after midnight," and we would laugh because we had heard the same statements at home! When Crystal announced that she was going to law school, Dad was so pleased, but also surprised. None of us children were ever pressured to go to law school, but three of us did, due in part to witnessing the pleasure our dad derived from the practice of law. He has also shared his love of the law and his federal courtroom with three of his grandchildren—Grant Wosick, Ian Roche, and Hope Wosick—by inviting their school classmates to naturalization ceremonies. What a wonderful way to pass on a love of country and introduce the legal profession to others!

Todd Webb is the third child of the Webbs. Todd graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1990. As Todd remembers, during his college years he became increasingly aware that he needed to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. After coming to the conclusion that one cannot live on golf alone, Todd decided that he wanted to become a lawyer. His decision was based on a simple premise: if he would

enjoy being a lawyer one-half as much as Dad does, he knew he would be happy. When we were growing up, Dad rarely talked about work at home, but it was apparent to us kids that he enjoyed going to work. Todd remembers the anxious thoughts and positive expectations Dad shared as he waited for a verdict. As lawyers, we regularly have enjoyable and valuable discussions about cases that we are working. We feel lucky to be happy in our work and lives, due in part to a good upbringing.

Wade Webb is the fifth child of Rodney and Betty Webb. Wade graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1995. Our dad's belief and commitment that lawyers should provide service through the law to individuals and the community, thereby making a real and positive difference in their lives, was a major factor in his decision, while still in high school, to become a public servant and lawyer. Wade recalls that while he has been practicing law in courtrooms in Fargo and Bismarck over the past few years, lawyers and judges have often commented on the similarities in mannerisms, conduct, and phrases used by Wade and Dad, such as referring to jurors as "folks." Wade can think of no greater compliment.

In 1987, Wade had the opportunity and privilege to accompany Dad to his United States Senate Judiciary hearing in Washington, D.C. This awesome trip was just prior to Dad being appointed United States District Court Judge. Wade was able to watch Dad, and listen to him testify to the United States Senators, not only about his love for the law, legal experience, and commitment to justice, but about who he was, where he came from, and what was important to him in life. He will never forget that Dad made a point of introducing his second son, Wade, during that hearing.

Our dad has been blessed with an outstanding legal career; however, that is just part of his story. We children are grateful to have been raised by two loving, committed, and caring parents. We are a close-knit family and all join to pay tribute to Dad and to thank him for the positive role model that he continues to be. We love you and thank you.
