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MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE IN THE LAW

HONORABLE MYRON H. BRIGHT*

I deem it a great privilege to participate in this tribute to my colleague at the Quentin N. Burdick United States Courthouse, Judge Rodney S. Webb. Judge Webb's life is full of many achievements, and it is appropriate that the *North Dakota Law Review* honor him as he takes senior status. Rodney is a lifelong resident of North Dakota. He was born, raised, and educated here. I am delighted to join others in recognizing his accomplishments. I shall focus principally on his contribution to the legal community of North Dakota.

I begin by noting Rodney's background. After graduating from the University of North Dakota School of Law, Rodney began his legal career in Walsh County. I first met Rodney in Grafton, where he practiced law in the early sixties. At that time, I recognized him as a young and very able lawyer with a very promising future.

However, Rodney's future was not in private practice. Instead, Rodney chose to give his talents to public service. He began his public service career as a State's Attorney for Walsh County, and then moved on to work in the North Dakota Attorney General's Office.

In 1981, Rodney moved into federal public service upon his appointment by President Ronald Reagan as the United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota. After only three years with the United States Attorney's Office, Rodney was thrust into the national spotlight. On February 13, 1983, Rodney's close friend, United States Marshal Kenneth Muir, and Deputy United States Marshal Robert Cheshire were murdered in a shoot-out with Gordon Kahl and others near Medina, North Dakota. From just moments after the incident, Rodney served as the contact person for the media and provided continuous updates as the situation progressed. With exemplary fashion, he handled his role.

In 1987, President Reagan once again called on Rodney, this time appointing him to the federal bench as a trial judge. Since then Judge Webb has earned a reputation as a perceptive, able, and fair-minded judge. He commands high regard and respect from the lawyers that appear in his court. He is an excellent trial judge.

* Senior Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Judge Webb, a dedicated jurist, has contributed more than his legal skills to North Dakota. Judge Webb was instrumental in the planning of the Quentin N. Burdick United States Courthouse in Fargo. He also had an important role in the remodeling of the Ronald N. Davies United States Courthouse in Grand Forks. These two fine buildings are the results of the hard-working efforts of Judge Webb.

Judge Webb and his wife, Betty, are outstanding citizens of this state. Their establishment of the Rodney and Betty Webb Endowment reflects their ardent support of the University of North Dakota and its law school, Judge Webb's alma maters.

Judge Webb's contributions to the judiciary and North Dakota are immeasurable. His judicial accomplishments along with his public service, both state and federal, are testaments to his outstanding career. Rodney, as a longtime friend, I salute you. I wish you many more years on the bench as a senior judge.