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A LETTER OF APPRECIATION†

JAMES E. WESTBROOK*

I regret very much that I cannot be present when Gene Kuntz is honored. Since I cannot be there, I would appreciate your conveying my thoughts in a manner you consider appropriate.

One has only to look at the record to see that Gene Kuntz has excelled in every way in which a faculty member can excel. Countless students have benefited from his breadth of knowledge, soundness of judgment, and ability to make them think. His scholarship has brought honor to himself and to the University, and it has been useful in the best sense of that word. He has served the College of Law, the University, and the state in so many ways at so many times that this aspect of his career alone has brought him well-deserved recognition.

As I reflect upon his retirement from the faculty, however, his qualities as a man stand out more vividly than anything else. If you looked around for a role model that students could look to of what an attorney should be, you could not find a better role model than Gene Kuntz. If you searched for an example that young faculty members could look to as they make their professional decisions, you could not find a better example than Gene Kuntz. There are many ways of measuring a man. I believe the best measure is to look for qualities of mind and heart that would make the world a better place if they were more widely shared. Gene Kuntz has these qualities and I admire him as much as anyone I have known.

Each of us is indebted to many persons for contributions they have made to our lives. Many persons know how to have a good time, but Gene and Rose Kuntz have a contagious quality that causes those around them to enjoy themselves more. I am indebted to Gene and Rose for the pleasure of their company. I remember the trips to the Texas game, the time we spent together at Oxford, and the evenings at their home which often ended with singing around the piano. Faculty members make contributions to the Law School in many ways. Gene Kuntz not only made his own contributions while I was Dean of the Law School, but he helped me in many important ways to make a better contribution to the School than I otherwise would have made.

† This letter was read by Interim Dean Barbara B. Lewis to those in attendance at an Appreciation Dinner held for Professor and Mrs. Eugene Kuntz on May 6, 1981.

* Dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Director of the Law Center, and Professor of Law, 1976-1980. Professor of Law, University of Missouri, Columbia.—*Ed.*

Time and again I sought his counsel on difficult issues. Each of us can learn from our colleagues. I learned more from Gene Kuntz than most of the persons I have known.

Many good things happened to me while I was Dean of the College of Law. One of the best things that happened was the opportunity to know and work with Gene Kuntz. Gene, I send you my thanks, my admiration, and my affection. You deserve every honor you have received and will receive.

Sincerely,
James E. Westbrook