

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
JOHN WEBSTER WADE

November 17, 1994

John Webster Wade, Dean Wade to all of us, died August 24, 1994, at the age of 83. He was born in Mississippi and received his undergraduate and law school education at the University of Mississippi, where he had an outstanding record. He was admitted to the bar in Mississippi in 1934, but pursued his legal education further at Harvard, where he received his SJD degree. He returned to Ole Miss to teach. With the coming of World War II, Dean Wade entered the Marine Corps. He served as an officer in the campaigns for the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Iwo Jima. He was awarded the bronze star with two presidential citations for uncommon bravery in battle.

After the war, he came to Vanderbilt Law School in 1947, and began his long association with Vanderbilt, Nashville, and Tennessee. He became Dean of that school in 1952, and served in that capacity until 1972. As Dean he was responsible for building the law school to its position as one of the leading law schools in the country.

Dean Wade was one of the preeminent legal scholars of his generation. He served for many years as one of the commissioners on uniform laws and on the governing council of the American Law Institute. He was one of the chief draftsmen of the Restatement of Torts, Second; and, after the retirement of Dean Prosser, carried on that work as the Reporter responsible for its completion. His case book on torts is still widely used. In addition to his work in torts, he was also a preeminent authority in the field of restitution and unjust enrichment. He published over 75 significant articles in these two fields and on legal education. Recognition of his expertise led to his appointment, and service with distinction, on national law reform committees too numerous to mention. The scope of his influence on the law cannot be measured.

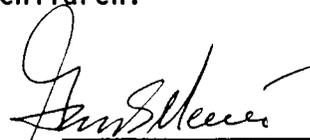
To those of us who had the good fortune to be in his classes, Dean Wade will always be remembered above all as a great teacher. He never spoonfed, but always led his students to see for themselves. He was a master of the socratic method, using hypotheticals and questions to reach understanding. He taught us to think, and to think like lawyers -- and in so doing, he gave us a sense of how the law and the legal system function and what justice must mean.

The full measure of the man cannot be grasped by a listing of his accomplishments. For no such listing can reflect his quiet courage, his innate dignity, his true humility, or the depths of his loyalty. John Wade was not only a great lawyer, a great teacher, a great scholar and a great citizen, more importantly, he was a great man.

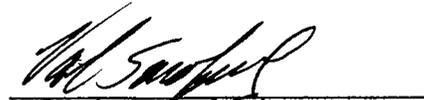
He is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Mary Moody Wade, and his children, John W. Wade, Jr., a member of this bar, Mary Wade Shanks of Atlanta, Ruth Ellen Grant of Richmond, and William J. Wade of Baton Rouge.

John Webster Wade honored us by his presence among us, and it is fitting that we honor him. For many of us, he was teacher, mentor, and friend. For all of us, his was an example of how life should be lived.

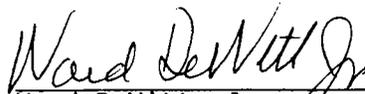
Therefore, the Committee respectfully moves that this Resolution be duly adopted and spread upon the Memorial Book of this Association, and that copies of the same be given to his widow and children.

  
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Gilbert S. Merritt

  
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Valerius Sanford

  
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Ward DeWitt, Jr.