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In Memoriam: Benjamin Brown Taylor, Jr.

Harry Joseph Philips Jr.

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IN MEMORIAM

BENJAMIN BROWN TAYLOR, JR.

As the *Louisiana Law Review* begins its second half-century of service, it is appropriate to pause to consider the *Review's* achievements, to reflect upon its traditions, to contemplate its future and, perhaps most importantly, to express its gratitude to those who are its foundation.

Each of the hundreds of past editors of the *Review* contributed to it in an important and unique way. But no one better illustrated the sense of loyalty and enthusiasm those editors felt for the *Review* than did its first editor in chief, Benjamin Brown Taylor, Jr., to whose memory this issue is dedicated.

"B.B.," as he was known by virtually everyone, was called upon by Dean Hebert to organize the *Review's* first board of editors and to publish the first volume in 1938. Although B.B. was quick to acknowledge the influence of Dean Hebert on the first issues and to credit Dean Hebert for the early success of the *Review*, one suspects (having known B.B.) that Volume 1 turned out pretty much the way B.B., not Dean Hebert, wanted.

Persistence was not a virtue lost on B.B. Taylor. His former colleagues report that B.B. would frequently persist in his opinions and suggestions about how things should be done (his way) until very often he would gain acquiescence by simply wearing them down. Even in his later years, long after he officially retired, B.B. was known for simply overwhelming an opponent. In an important sales tax case concluded shortly before his untimely death, B.B.'s adversary mournfully reported to the court at oral argument that he had not filed a written brief because every time he tried to do so he would receive another supplemental memorandum from B.B. raising new issues and advancing new arguments. (B.B. won the case.)

As tenacious and persistent as he was, B.B. was equally imaginative. He resorted to common law notions of real property to save a clock on Third Street in Baton Rouge from removal by the city. In a brief to the United States Supreme Court, he quoted freely from Lewis Carroll. He was quick to use demonstrative evidence or some other new or innovative technique to prove his point.

B.B. was held in high regard by his peers in the legal community, but he was also recognized as an outstanding citizen, interested in the preservation of structures of historical value and always willing to lend his energies to support a worthy cause. B.B. was a loving parent and grandparent. He served his country with distinction as an Army officer

during World War II and often shared his recollections of those days with young lawyers. B.B.'s life was a full one, indeed, and one in which his days as editor in chief of the *Louisiana Law Review* always held a special place.

The passage of time has proven Dean Hebert wise in his choice of B.B. Taylor as the cornerstone of the *Review*. Fifty volumes of outstanding legal scholarship evidence the strength and influence that B.B. exerted upon this institution. On behalf of all who served after him, the Board of Editors of Volume 51 has fittingly chosen to dedicate this issue of the *Louisiana Law Review* to the memory of B.B. Taylor, Jr.

*Harry Joseph Philips, Jr.**

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* Member of the Louisiana Bar, Editor in Chief, Volume 43, *Louisiana Law Review*.