IN MEMORIAM

LEO G. BLACKSTOCK
(1899-1972)

Leo Guy Blackstock died on September 4, 1972, less than a year from the date of his retirement after forty-four years of association as a teacher with the University of Texas.

He is survived by his widow, Dr. Hannah Graham Belcher Blackstock, to whom he was married in Japan on May 26, 1948; two sons, Dr. Mathis W. Blackstock and Dr. David T. Blackstock of Austin; seven grandchildren; and five brothers and sisters; Dr. A. T. Blackstock, of Hico, Texas; Mr. Homer Blackstock, of St. Louis; Mrs. Mary Dillard of Midlothian; Mrs. Kathryn Polson, of Dallas; and Mrs. Mildred Faye Lamb of Weatherford.

Leo, or Lee, as many of his friends called him, was born at Whitt, in Parket County, Texas on November 1, 1899. After graduation from high school in Weatherford, Texas, Lee earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics at The University of Texas in 1923. Two years later he received from the same institution the degree of Master of Business Administration. He pursued his legal education while holding a full-time teaching position in the College of Business Administration, and obtained the Degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence (with Highest Honors) from The University of Texas School of Law in 1933. He was a member of the Law School's Chancellors Society.

His professional careers were little short of astonishing because he achieved eminence in so many different fields of endeavor. To most people, he is best known for his brilliant accomplishments as a teacher in both the College of Business Administration and the School of Law. His excellence as a teacher of Business Administration is attested by the appreciative recollections of students from Trinity University, where he taught from 1924 to 1925, the Sam Houston State Teachers College, where he was from 1925 until 1927, and most notably, The University of Texas, where he served, with brief interruptions, from 1927 until 1971. Those who attended a dinner in his honor on the occasion of his retirement know from the hundred of testimonials the high esteem in which he was held by his students.
In 1937, he took a leave of absence for two years to accept the position of Chief Examiner of the Gas Utilities Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. One of our great Texas experts in the field of administrative law regards Lee's opinions, written while he held this position, as among the best that have ever been done, perhaps because Lee had that unusual combination of talents and accomplishments, expertise in both law and accounting, an ability to write, an unfailing sense of fairness, and a great deal of common sense. He elected to leave this promising career in administrative law to return to his first love, teaching.

Lee's teaching career was again interrupted but this time by events which were not of his choosing. He had been commissioned as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army Reserve in 1936, and as a consequence, he was one of the first to go on active duty as World War II was approaching. He entered the active service at Fort Sam Houston on his birthday in 1941, and continued in this status for more than six years. His military career was distinguished. He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff School. He served in the Pacific Theater during most of his period of active duty. He took part in the New Guinea campaign in 1944, the initial invasion at Leyte in the same year, and the Mindanao campaign in 1945. During this time he was Assistant Corps Judge Advocate of the Tenth Army Corps. After VJ day he was assigned to the occupation forces in Japan where he was Chief of the Prosecution Division, General Headquarters, Tokyo, and was in charge of the prosecution of Japanese war criminals. Military lawyers serving under him included not only American officers, but those from the British, Australian and Canadian Armed Forces. Among the many decorations and citations he received were the American Defense Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, the Japanese Occupation Medal with Clasp, and Bronze Star Medals for the Philippine Liberation, New Guinea, and the Southern Philippines. He was released from active duty to reserve status with the rank of Colonel. It is characteristic of him, although little short of unbelievable, that while he was vigorously prosecuting Japanese nations for war crimes, he made a host of Japanese friends with many of whom
he maintained a close and warm relationship throughout his life.

From 1953 until 1966, Lee taught a course in Military Law at The University of Texas Law School. He was the author of a book of cases and materials on military law which was a significant contribution to the literature in that field. His collection of books on military law, which he gave a few years ago to the library of The University of Texas Law School, is one of the finest and most extensive to be found in any University library.

No less remarkable were his interests and relationships in his personal life. Because of his broad and varied interest, life was never dull. He knew, as a friend, every tree, shrub, and wildflower native to our region. Such shy birds as the yellow-breasted chat nested within view of his window, and a paisano, or roadrunner, never known to have any affinity for man, called upon him at breakfast time every morning. These wild creatures apparently recognized instinctively his kindness. He found beauty in almost all of the sights and sounds of nature. As a result, he was never bored, even during the last year or two of his life, when his activity was sometimes restricted to looking out of a window. But he also appreciated and found pleasure in good food, good books, good music, and more than anything else, the company of his family and friends.

A man who was his close friend for more than forty years remarked that he had never once heard Lee say an unkind word about anyone. When he occasionally experienced frustration or failure, as all human beings must, he never searched for a scapegoat. He blamed no one but himself. In all things he was a gentleman. But beneath his quiet and judicious demeanor was a balled fire of emotion which could flare up in response to words or actions he thought unkind or unfair to others. His sense of justice was deep-seated and reflected the larger concepts and values in human relations.

So, this warm and gentle man of definite convictions and of many talents, a distinguished teacher, lawyer, and soldier, will be missed by his students, colleagues, and friends. All who knew him will long treasure his memory.
This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Eugene Nelson (chairman), Lanier Cox, John Stockton and Kenneth Woodward.