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## Bless His Heart

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## BLESS HIS HEART

DONALD J. WEIDNER\*

I am delighted that the students who are *The Florida State University Law Review* have chosen to dedicate this issue to Steve Goldstein. Steve's scholarly writings were very important to him and I know he would appreciate this tribute in our law school's flagship scholarly journal.

Several months have passed since Steve died of a heart attack after jogging. In those months, the horror of his death has evolved into a sad acceptance. It seems that not one day goes by without encountering a task that we just do not quite know how to do without him. We are not quite sure how to plan a schedule without Steve. We are not sure how to carry on death penalty work at the law school without Steve. The Volunteer Resource Center is not sure how to press lawyers into service on capital cases without Steve. We are not sure how to coordinate the Simon Chair without Steve. We are not sure how to take ourselves less seriously without Steve.

I have no words that are adequate to characterize Steve, either as a professional or as a person. Because he was a consummate professional, the two are impossible to separate. I can say that I am very grateful for the time that I had with Steve. More importantly, I am grateful to have shared in the life of a man who was completely good. He was a man of uncommon spirituality and spent his life caring for others. His compassion was boundless. And there was not a malicious or a dishonest cell in his body. Steve was completely without guile and was a man of great humility.

I am grateful that Steve's life was full of happiness. His life was rich with family, friends, and admirers. He was wonderful with children. He had an unflinching sense of humor and was an irrepressible

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\* Dean and Professor, Florida State University College of Law. B.S., 1966, Fordham University; J.D., 1969, University of Texas. Project Editor, *Texas Law Review*.

Before joining the law faculty at Florida State in 1976, the author served as an associate at the New York firm of Willkie, Farr and Gallagher and on the law faculties of the University of South Carolina and Cleveland State University.

Since coming to Florida State, the author has published numerous articles on real estate, partnership and partnership taxation. He is a member of the American Law Institute and has served on its Tax Advisory Group. He is the Reporter for the Revised Uniform Partnership Act and has served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico, the University of North Carolina and the University of Texas.

tease. He loved sports. He enjoyed the present and was looking forward to the future. He was shopping for a beach house on St. George Island.

Steve loved his work. He believed in education, and he believed in building a great law school at Florida State. He believed in doing his part to bring fairness and justice to people in the greatest need. He fought to have all people treated with greater dignity. Steve loved being an academic lawyer and he loved being a practicing lawyer. He loved working for the civil rights of others and he loved lawyers who shared in this work. He was a hero. We shall miss him.

I was having dinner the other evening with someone who referred to another, saying, "bless his heart." That struck me because Steve used the phrase "bless his heart" quite frequently. It is an old-fashioned phrase, one from his youth and mine. I shall always think of Steve when I hear it.

Bless his heart.