

January 1955

LLOYD PAUL STRYKER - AN APPRECIATION

HAROLD W. WOLFRAM

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/nyls_law_review



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

HAROLD W. WOLFRAM, *LLOYD PAUL STRYKER - AN APPRECIATION*, 1 N.Y.L. SCH. L. REV. (1955).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@NYLS. It has been accepted for inclusion in NYLS Law Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@NYLS.

LLOYD PAUL STRYKER—AN APPRECIATION

HAROLD W. WOLFRAM

HE LEFT the office one Friday and did not return. It ended just the way he would have desired, at the conclusion of a busy week just before the courts recessed for the summer. Even in this final step he did not linger or equivocate.

The worst thing that could befall any man, he held, was to outlive his usefulness. Nothing would have disturbed him more. He expressed his feelings in his book on Thomas Erskine, whose glorious career at the bar was defaced, he felt, because he had lived too long. He wrote of "The Art of Dying":

"The supreme (though unintentional) artists in this field have been either those who died at the right time for their fame, or those who, when death stared them in the face, have made the nature of their going the memorable act of their careers."

Then he added:

"Unhappy is the man who must live on after he has finished with his life. Lincoln's prairie years came before his great career had opened, Erskine's after his was closed."

Lloyd Paul Stryker was privileged to die before his extraordinary usefulness had ended. Last February, we finished a six-week trial in the federal court. He summed up for six weary hours. Within a few days, he was at the office looking for "the next one."

If I were required to single out the distinguishing feature of his crowded professional life, the one thing that gave it real scope and meaning, I would choose not a stirring speech, not a searching cross-examination, not even a victory in a hopeless case, but the inspiration he provided to the scores of young people who passed through the office. He gave his time freely to the law student and young graduate; he was never too busy or too bored to listen, to counsel and to utter words of encouragement and hope. A young man's uncertainty and eagerness never failed to enlist his sympathy and good fellowship. For the very same reason, he delighted in his many contacts with the law schools—with New York Law School, his alma mater, with Yale, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Syracuse, Notre Dame, Virginia and a host of others.

HAROLD W. WOLFRAM for many years, was a close professional associate and friend of Lloyd Paul Stryker.

He had a sense of humor which tended to debunk almost everything, including (if not primarily) himself. He was deadly serious, however, about the rights and liberties which exalt the country he loved. His early experience in the District Attorney's office taught him that prosecutors wield a frightful power and he fought relentlessly to bring the scales into a little better balance.

He has left us a heritage of many years of close association, unmarred by a single mean or petty act. None of us can recall a single critical word or gesture in all of those years of intense pressure in the midst of bitter conflict. The mistakes of others were always overlooked, his own mercilessly exposed. He had as many foibles as his neighbor, but his humility, his charity, his understanding, in short, his truly religious spirit, marked him as a man apart.