Introduction

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Ewing Kerr is remarkable, both as a man and as a judge. Because of his longevity and his long and impressive judicial career, there are so many things that could be said about him. Consequently, anything written must necessarily be limited to memories that only suggest what manner of man he is. In the interest of brevity, I wanted to acknowledge three of Judge Kerr’s most memorable attributes.

One of the most memorable things about Judge Kerr is his relationship and patience with young lawyers. This is not to suggest that he does not exact a high standard of practice in his court. However, he is a man who does not needlessly delight in finding fault. As a result, you feel that you want to do well for him as well as for your clients. It is too bad that more of us who serve or have served as judges do not adopt this approach, because it inspires confidence, respect and a general feeling of fairness. His quiet and courteous manner certainly engenders respect of the man and the law.

No reflections regarding Judge Kerr would be complete without mention of the unique conditions found in the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, which set it apart from other parts of the country. In large part due to Judge Kerr’s efforts and example, the docket of the federal district court for Wyoming has been current for years. A glance at the records of the courts in other districts will reveal the startling contrast between this district’s docket and the confused, congested and swamped dockets from other jurisdictions. It can be said truthfully that there is not now nor ever has been any reason to suggest that “justice delayed is justice denied” in the Wyoming Federal District Court.

Judge Kerr’s relationships with other judges is another of his im-
It is a sorrowful fact that the relationship between many federal and state judges in other jurisdictions is characterized by jealousy and personal enmity. Confrontations are encouraged. However, this State has never seen any of that pettiness, because of the character and attitude of our federal judges. What was so long nurtured and maintained by Judge Kerr has, by example, remained in place. When I have described this relationship to judges from other jurisdictions, they express strong feelings of disbelief.

In short, Judge Kerr is a man whose influence both on the federal bench and on the other attorneys and judges in the State of Wyoming has been profound.

All of us are better people for having known and worked with Ewing T. Kerr.

HON. RODNEY M. GUTHRIE

* This is not meant to be a listing of all of the judges who served during the periods mentioned. Only those judges with a particular tie to Judge Kerr are mentioned. Eds.