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Mike Sullivan

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In Memory of William F. Drew

Mike Sullivan

William F. ("Bill") Drew was an uncommon Wyoming lawyer, he died December 23, 1995. As with many Wyoming young men of his generation, he served his country before he received his education, serving in the United States Navy on destroyers in the South Pacific during World War II. Raised in Casper and a graduate of Natrona County High School, Bill married Florence Studer, also of Casper, on his return from the War.

He enrolled at the University receiving a Bachelor of Science and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming in 1950. Following law

school, Bill practiced in Cheyenne for a short time, thereafter taking a position in the law department of Stanolind Oil & Gas Company doing legal and land work for a period of four years. Because it was a period of intense oil and gas activity he also moonlighted doing title work for his future partner, William H. Brown.

In 1955 Bill left Stanolind and joined William H. Brown and George Apostolos in the firm of Brown, Drew and Apostolos to become in 1957 Brown, Healy, Drew, Apostolos & Barton, a rare group of lawyers whose association together was only changed by death or retirement. It was at this point in his career that Bill Drew could be viewed as an uncommon Wyoming lawyer, for a host of other reasons as well, but primarily because he was a specialist engaged in mineral title and oil and gas regulatory practice. A lawyer of unique expertise at a time when few Wyoming lawyers practiced as specialists. Bill's early experience, gained during the halcyon years of the oil business in Wyoming served him well, for he maintained a practice and a reputation as one of the premier Rocky Mountain oil and gas lawyers during his entire career. His practice was region-wide, carrying him to county clerk's offices throughout the state and preparing title opinions, contracts and operating agreements that sooner or later related to almost every major oil and gas field in Wyoming. During such time many younger lawyers were the beneficiaries of his tutelage and vast reservoir of knowledge in oil and gas and mineral related legal work.

Those who know Bill Drew knew him to be an intense lawyer who shared his knowledge, his humor and his success with others. Similarly, Bill approached life with the same intensity and enthusiasm and the stories, not to be repeated here, are many.

Bill's wife of 47 years, Florence, preceded him in death on August 25, 1995. He is survived by three daughters Catherine Purcell and Patricia Jackson, both of Cheyenne, and Mary Terry of Mission Viejo, California; a brother Tim and sister Mary Ann, also both of Casper, ten grandchildren and a host of partners, associates, colleagues and friends whose lives he touched.