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## The Dedication

Harvie Branscomb Chancellor Emeritus

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## IV. The Dedication

*Presiding: Harvie Branscomb, Chancellor Emeritus*

*CHANCELLOR BRANSCOMB:* This is a day of rejoicing for all of those who love this University, for those who know the quality of this School, and for those who are aware of the role which a great school of law can play in the progress of this southern region. We are grateful to all of you for coming to help us celebrate this accomplishment, especially grateful to those of you who bring greetings from other schools of law, and for those of you who have had a part in this program and will have a part in it this morning. This day admittedly has been long in the making. The charter of one of the United Nations' organizations begins with the sentence, "Wars begin in the minds of men." This building began in the minds of the Law School faculty I do not know how long ago. I can only report that some six or eight years ago I proposed to the Dean of the School of Law that we place an elevator in Kirkland Hall so that the older members of the faculty would not have to climb the stairs. He conferred with his faculty and a few days later brought back to me their reply. They had discussed the matter, he said, and had concluded, first, that they did not have any older members of their faculty and, second, that the only elevators that he could get them interested in talking about were the ones that were to appear in the proposed new Law School building.

But now we have it and we are glad and proud. We are more grateful than we can say to many people: to you many donors who have made this possible, to the Building Committee of the School who planned each square foot of the life of the building, no doubt with the lengthy discussion which you would expect of distinguished lawyers, to the architects Messrs. Brush, Hutchison, and Gwinn who translated these legal formulae into functional, disfunctional, and beautiful construction, to the Jones Construction Company for expert workmanship, and to our own Buildings and Grounds Department who resolved so many problems related to steam and water and access and who supervised the whole project. We thank each one of you for the part which you have played in making this day possible.

The librarian of one of the great eastern universities once told me this story. The university, he said, was given a very large sum of money to build a library and the officers of the university and the architects wished to do proper honor to the donor by a monumental building. They planned towers and arches and vaulted ceilings to a

point that the purpose of the building seemed, to the librarian at least, almost forgotten. One day when it looked as if the working space which he had salvaged was to be encroached upon again for another decorative arrangement the librarian in irritation called the architect into his office and said to him, "You have asked me to devise a motto to go over the main entrance. All right, I have one for you. Carve over the main door the following words, 'This is not the library. The library is inside.'"

This building has not wasted space in frescoes and decorations and turrets. It is beautifully functional, but neither is this fine building in itself the School of Law. It is a great tool for the work of the School. It is a symbol of its important role in this University, in this community, and this region. It is providing shelter for its library, working space for its faculty. It will give conference room for the Tennessee and Nashville Bars. It provides corridors for its students to secure that best of all education, argument of legal questions with other students of equal ignorance of the law but equal enthusiasm.

We are proud and happy that we have it. The School of Law, however, is within this fine building and of the School of Law itself can be said what was said by a scholar returning many centuries ago to Merton College, Oxford, while it was in process of being built. "How beautiful are your towers," he exclaimed. "So splendid and yet still rising."

This occasion, however, does not belong merely to those of us who are on or have been on this faculty. It has meaning to all who are interested in an orderly society ruled by law. We are grateful for the presence of so many distinguished representatives of the legal profession both in this audience and on the platform. We shall have the pleasure of hearing from three of them. We shall hear from them in this order. First, we will hear from the first citizen of Tennessee, the distinguished governor of our State, a loyal alumnus of this School of Law, an effective advocate and supporter of education at all levels in our State, and a friend of every Tennessean, particularly if he votes right, his excellency Governor Frank G. Clement.

Next, we will hear from a member of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, a graduate of this University, both of its College of Arts and Science and its School of Law, a loyal alumnus, and an honor to his alma mater, Justice Andrew O. Holmes. And third, we shall hear from a younger son of this institution, also a graduate of its College and of this School of Law, a member of a family which has contributed two governors to the State, one Democratic and one a Republican, a member of a firm of law which has recently contributed

two United States judges to Tennessee, the President of the Tennessee Bar, Mr. Alfred W. Taylor. These gentlemen will speak to you in this order without further introduction.

*GOVERNOR CLEMENT:* Chancellor Branscomb, Chancellor Heard, distinguished members of the Board, distinguished graduates and friends of Vanderbilt, this is a memorable occasion for me. I am delighted to have the privilege to speak at least on one occasion for three and a half million Tennesseans and say congratulations to Vanderbilt, a school I love very much, on this wonderful accomplishment. I am not here to make a speech, but being here does bring back a few memories.

It was just a bit to the left of where I stand now and down the street that my wife put me through Vanderbilt Law School working for thirty cents an hour. The house we lived in was a very nice house. The room we occupied, our bedroom, had been the kitchen of this old house. Our kitchen had been the pantry and we shared the bath with fourteen other people when we went through Vanderbilt. So all governors are not born with silver spoons in their mouths but I did have one silver spoon offered to me.

At an early age I wanted to be a lawyer. At the age of eighteen I told my father that I was ready to lay the rest of the schooling behind me, that I wanted to enter law school and, even at that age, I am proud to say that I told him I had real ambitions. I said, "I want to go to the best law school that I can possibly go to, Dad," and I never will forget what he told me. He said, "Son, I am not a graduate of Vanderbilt but if we can possibly do it I want you to go to Vanderbilt Law School." That's why I enrolled in Vanderbilt. I have never regretted it. Down through the years I have been proud to say that I was a graduate of Vanderbilt.

I predict many even better days ahead for this great institution than those wonderful years we have had behind us. It can be so if those of us who are graduates will work together to try to remember that we are not interested in numbers. We are interested in but one thing, quality, so that when a person says, "I graduated from Vanderbilt Law School," he can hold his head high wherever he may be. Thank you very much.

*JUSTICE HOLMES:* Chancellor Branscomb, Chancellor Heard, Dean Wade, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, first permit me to tell you that Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett deeply regrets his inability to be here and pay tribute to Vanderbilt by his presence.

From the time I was a student on this campus my Vanderbilt connections have stood me in good stead. It is only because I am a Vanderbilt graduate that I, the most junior member of the Tennessee Supreme Court, have the privilege on this delightful occasion to bring greetings to the University from the Court. The courts of Tennessee are deeply indebted to the Vanderbilt School of Law. Not only here in Nashville but throughout the state of Tennessee, graduates of this Law School dedicated to upholding the administration of justice are serving as trial judges. Their unselfish devotion to the cause of truth and justice under the law makes the work of an appellate judge much less burdensome than it otherwise would be. For every case that reaches the Tennessee Supreme Court, each of these judges will have made the final decision as to the rights and responsibilities of hundreds of the citizens of our state. Not only is the trial bench of our state enriched by the Vanderbilt Law School, but also the entire bar of Tennessee. For thirty-five years I have watched the products of Vanderbilt come to the bar in Tennessee. The caliber of the practicing lawyer to a great extent determines the caliber of the courts, for often a good lawyer can teach much law to a mediocre judge, just as in this Law School your fine professors can make good students and good lawyers out of those who otherwise would be only average.

In recent years your service to the legal profession of our state has been greatly enhanced by your excellent law review which makes an annual survey of the Tennessee decisions. Through the *Vanderbilt Law Review* the bench and the bar of our state are given a clear and concise annual accounting of our profits and our losses. Vanderbilt Law School has served to raise the standards of the bench and bar of Tennessee in the past without the magnificent facilities you now possess. I am sure that it will do even more in the future. Each year a substantial number of your graduates are transfused into the bloodstream of the legal profession of Tennessee, giving it new strength and new vitality.

On behalf of the Supreme Court of Tennessee I salute you and congratulate you on this memorable occasion.

*MR. TAYLOR:* Chancellor Emeritus Branscomb, Chancellor Heard, Dean Wade, Members of the Board of Trust, Governor Clement, Justice Holmes, fellow alumni, and friends of Vanderbilt University, I am honored to greet you this morning on behalf of the Tennessee Bar Association. I am honored to greet you as a member of the legal profession. I am distinctly honored to greet you as a Vanderbilt man.

Today we have gathered to dedicate fulfillment of a great accomplishment, the result of many years of untiring, unselfish, and un-

swerving toil and planning. To Dean Wade, Mr. Cecil Sims, and all of you who have made this great day possible, I extend my congratulations. To those of you who are students now and students to be of this excellent Law School, I would say they have posted a high mark for you to strive to attain. To those of us who possess a cherished degree from this Vanderbilt School of Law, I would say may we never lose sight of the lofty standards which we have been taught here, and to all of you may I repeat today that I am exceedingly proud.

*DR. BRANSCOMB:* It is not only a pleasure for me to present the next speaker but a temptation as well, a temptation really to speak at greater length than any presiding officer should. His loyalty to this institution and his services to it, his commitment to this School of Law and his support of it, have been, I think, for nearly four decades, probably its greatest assets. He has taught in its classrooms, inspired its students, found jobs for its graduates, fought its battles, corrected its chancellor, and served as chairman of the committee which raised the funds for this building. It is right and proper that this building should be presented to the University, to the faculty of the School, and to the community by one who has had so much to do with this accomplishment, Mr. Cecil Sims.

*MR. SIMS:* Mr. Chancellor Emeritus—that's a promotion—distinguished guests—because all of us here are distinguished and I would not fractionalize an audience of this type by trying to single out the various levels of distinction that I see in front of me—during the past few days you have had an opportunity to witness Vanderbilt's latest extravagance. This beautiful new law school building denies the validity of Ben Franklin's ancient shibboleth that a "penny saved is a penny earned," and rather, on the other hand, affirms the doctrine that a penny well spent is both a sound investment in the future and at the same time the best guarantee of its continuous existence. In providing for the future here in this Law School, Vanderbilt has not forgotten the past. We still believe with Jefferson Davis that nothing in the past is dead to the man who would learn how the present came to be what it is. Here at Vanderbilt we have learned that every age witnesses the death of old dreams and at the same time the birth of new dreams.

Today, as Robert Frost has so well said, "the woods are lovely, dark, and deep but [we] have promises to keep and miles to go before [we] sleep." Mr. Chancellor Heard, our tradition, our faith, and our investment is now your future responsibility. Thank you.

*DR. BRANSCOMB:* The acceptance of this building and this responsibility which Mr. Sims has so beautifully stated on behalf of the University will be made by the individual who already in his short tenure of his distinguished office has won the respect and the keen interest of our entire community and the loyalty and high regard of all Vanderbilt men and women who have come to know him. We have seen enough of him to know and feel assured that under his leadership years of great accomplishment in those areas of first importance lie ahead for this University. The fifth chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Alexander Heard.

*DR. HEARD:* Your Excellency Governor Clement, Mr. Chancellor Branscomb, distinguished guests of all classes, ladies and gentlemen of Vanderbilt University, from you, Mr. Sims, and on behalf of the whole of Vanderbilt University we welcome to our campus and accept into our family of facilities this dream fulfilled. This dream come true means many things, including evidence that forty-six years of residence in Kirkland Hall can have a just reward.

It testifies to the vision and the energy of its chancellor who was meritorious long before he became emeritus, and it symbolizes the understanding and the faith and the sense of appreciation that underlie the generosity of alumni and friends, but most of all this new home in which we dwell is a product of the teaching of the law to students of the law by men of the law. Nine decades of faculty achievements are what we acknowledge this day and foremost among these we acknowledge the pains and the glories of the classroom, the successes and the difficulties of patient, sensitive, rigorous, practical, and in precious moments, inspiring teaching.

The inside of this building, like the inside of this University, is no more than its faculty. If the not-so-secret truth be known, it is in the nature of a school of law and in the nature of a university that our traditions and our faith and our investment are mostly their future responsibility. For their associates in our great common enterprise of Vanderbilt University, I thank them and wish them well this day. Thank you.

*DR. BRANSCOMB:* The most important part of any institution of higher learning is the students, present and future. Mr. John C. Vogt, President of the Vanderbilt Bar Association, a senior who will receive his LL.B. degree in June of this year, God willing, and an associate justice of the Vanderbilt Moot Court, will speak for himself and his fellow students.

*MR. VOGT:* Chancellor Branscomb, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the student body is most aware of the tremendous opportunity brought to them through the availability of our new building and its magnificent facilities. The class of 1963 will be greatly honored, I feel, by being the first class to graduate from this building, although there is a sense of gratitude for having been a student while Kirkland Hall served its last days as the house for our School.

The real Vanderbilt Law School, of course, is not the physical structure where the classes meet, but rather consists of the faculty, the student body, the alumni, the traditions which they have all inherited from their predecessors, and the high purpose of legal education to which we should all be dedicated. Although these things are actually Vanderbilt Law School, this new building is a most fitting monument, I feel, and house for a school. It is my hope, and I can say it is the student body's most ardent wish, that those of us who graduate from these halls will bear the mark of learning and of honor that those who have taught us and those who have preceded us have left so clearly for us to follow.

*DR. BRANSCOMB:* For the alumni, our representative is a graduate of the class of 1927, a lecturer in this School, a brilliant lawyer, a citizen whose public services have included tasks of major importance for the development of this community, the Vice-President of the Vanderbilt Law Alumni Association, the good friend of so many of us in this room, Mr. Edwin F. Hunt.

*MR. HUNT:* Chancellor Branscomb, Chancellor Heard, Governor Clement, other distinguished guests and friends of Vanderbilt, it was one of the ancient Greek philosophers who said "there is nothing permanent except change itself." When I view this campus and contrast it with the campus of my days as law student, I am impressed anew with the verity of that ancient saying. Some changes bring us emotions of undiluted regret. Others we receive with mingled emotions, but I must confess the change in the Law School which brings us here leaves me with neither of these feelings. Rather, as one of the alumni, I view with much pride and satisfaction and joy the improvement and the expansion of the Vanderbilt Law School made possible by the splendid building which is today being formally presented, received, and dedicated.

On behalf of the alumni I am honored to accept this building for them and for all of those who will be alumni hereafter. Thank you.



