

The Catholic Lawyer

Volume 19
Number 1 *Volume 19, Winter 1973, Number 1*

Article 4

March 2017

In Memoriam Harold F. McNiece

Hon. Charles S. Desmond

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hon. Charles S. Desmond (1973) "In Memoriam Harold F. McNiece," *The Catholic Lawyer*. Vol. 19 : No. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl/vol19/iss1/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Catholic Lawyer by an authorized editor of St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact selbyc@stjohns.edu.

IN MEMORIAM HAROLD F. McNIECE

HON. CHARLES S. DESMOND*

Perhaps it is enough to say of a man—of even such a man as Harold McNiece—that he was a good teacher. For, as Henry Adams wrote, “A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence ends.” Or perhaps it would be encomium enough to say that Dr. McNiece was a good citizen in the best sense of that abused phrase. Maybe we should be content with dubbing him an honest man, for “an honest man is the noblest work of God,” as Pope so truly told us.

But I would rather remember Dean McNiece as a great-hearted gentleman, a gallant gentleman, an honored and beloved friend. Gentle he was, and patient, and unassuming and uncomplaining. Without qualities like these, his erudition and legal skill and learning, his administrative expertise—all these, admirable as they were, would be merely the passing milestones of a useful career.

Physical pain and suffering were his aplenty, but they had no weapons against him. He kept his travails to himself. He did not moan or foist them on others. They were his to bear and he bore them like the strong, good man he was.

Because Harold McNiece was an effective teacher, a successful dean, a useful public man, I honor him. Because he was my friend, I mourn him. I pray that he may find peace forever in “a fairer place than even Oxford Town.”

* Former Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. Judge Desmond was a close friend of Dean McNiece.