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Remembering Jim McGoldrick

Harry M. Caldwell*

For thirty years I have advised students to take a Jim McGoldrick class—it did not matter if it was Constitutional Law or Criminal Procedure—just take a McGoldrick class. I would tell them that if you did not take a McGoldrick class, you did not receive the full Pepperdine Law School experience.

In 1974, Jim McGoldrick was my Constitutional Law professor; he was brilliant—his command of the material was awe-inspiring. But it was his charm and wit that made the class special. While occasionally his humor drifted over the line, everyone in class loved his engagement. Best teacher I ever had.

A number of years after I graduated, I was a prosecutor in Santa Barbara. At that time, Jim was the Associate Dean and he called me, literally out of the blue, to offer me a job teaching Trial Advocacy and Criminal Law and Procedure. I was flattered but disinclined; I liked being a trial prosecutor. Jim was incessant, and in 1980 I joined the law faculty. I owe my 40-year career to Jim.

Jim was a caring, giving, loyal, and thoughtful friend. He always had time to visit, go to lunch, or just sit and listen. Sitting in his office with our feet up, we covered most every topic. His laughter spilled out into the hallway and everyone within earshot was the better for it.

After my wife passed away in April of 2019, Jim, Jan, and I became even closer. Jim and his adoring wife Jan took me under their wing, helping me cope with the loss of Joyce, my lifelong love. Their love and friendship helped me through the most difficult time of my life.

Jim and Jan were a wonderful couple and were perfectly matched. Their love and affection for one another was evident every time they were together. Jim was forever surprising Jan with the unexpected and delightful. Trips to Spain and New Zealand were but a couple of their adventures. And Jan, to her credit, was always up for something new.

A world without Jim McGoldrick loses a bit of its joy, but we cherish

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the memories of the charming, quirky, witty man and will forever miss him.