



Resolution

of the

Ted Dalton American Inn of Court

Whereas Roger Douglas Groot was born July 31, 1942, in Mt. Vernon, Washington, grew up in South Texas, became a man of personal and unmeasured professional respect, and died on November 12, 2005, at the age of 63;

Whereas Roger Groot graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1962 from Vanderbilt University, served six years in the United States Marine Corps, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, and graduated with honors in 1971 from the University of North Carolina School of Law, Order of the Coif, and was Managing Editor of Law Review;

Whereas Roger Groot was a professor of law at the University of Georgia, visiting Professor of Law at the Universities of North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky, joined the faculty of the Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1973, and named Class of 1975 Alumni Professor of Law and taught primarily criminal law and procedure for more than thirty years on his way to becoming one of our nation's elite criminal law experts, legal historians, and authors;

Whereas Roger Groot took over the direction and leadership of Washington and Lee's Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse in 1999, became a Director on the Board of Governors of the Virginia Bar Association in 2002, all while practicing his expertise of defending those charged with capital crimes in both state and federal courts;

Whereas Roger Groot was committed to the fundamental rule of law that every defendant, regardless of his station in life, is entitled to effective representation and advocated just compensation for indigent defense counsel as well as the implementation of standards of competence for such counsel, particularly in capital cases, which were first adopted by the Indigent Defense Commission and later promulgated into law by the Virginia General Assembly;

Whereas Roger Groot was appointed by the Governor of Virginia in 2005 to the newly formed Forensic Science Board to establish policies, procedures and standards to guide the operation of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science;

Whereas Roger Groot, as a God-fearing Virginia gentleman, was first and foremost a husband, father, grandfather, family man and outdoorsman;

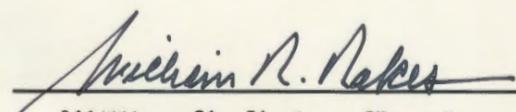
Whereas Roger Groot was a nationally recognized "giant" in the field of criminal law and was a lion both in and out of the courtroom when it came to fiercely representing indigent capital defendants;

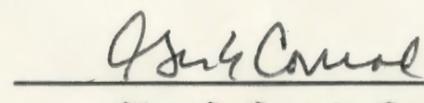
Whereas, no client of Roger Groot, to his great personal satisfaction, was ever sentenced to death;

Whereas Roger Groot as a founding member and Master of the Bench of the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court, always strove to help pupils, barristers and judges rise to higher levels of excellence, professionalism and ethical awareness;

Whereas Roger Groot, consistent with the mission of the American Inns of Court, was dedicated to the encouragement of a legal culture in which excellence in mentoring, leading by example, being ethical and civil toward opposing counsel, and remaining focused on the journey of truth are the most noble of causes.

Be It Therefore Resolved, this 29th day of November, 2005, by the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court, that Roger Douglas Groot in death, as in life, shall be forever recognized as a Master of the Bench of the highest order as demonstrated by his civility and professionalism in all endeavors; his inciteful and voluminous scholarly works; his mentorship to students, lawyers, and judges; his superb litigation skills, and his deep sense of personal honor and integrity.


William R. Rakes, President


Glen E. Conrad, Counselor