



Larry Derryberry

In Memoriam

1939-2016

“I am not a self-made man. I am little bits and pieces of the many who have given little parts of their lives to me.” This poignant quote from Bob Burke’s *Courage Counts – The Life of Larry Derryberry* captures the essence of a man who truly appreciated each and every person he met. We all benefitted from knowing and working with Larry.

Born in 1939, in Jackson County near Altus Oklahoma on a tenant farm, Larry began public oratory through the 4-H program. He enjoyed public speaking. Elected at age twenty-two as State House Representative representing Jackson County, he formally began public service. In addition to his House responsibilities, Larry simultaneously served as the editor of the *Oklahoma Law Review* and was a member of the Board of Visitors while in law school.

While serving in the House of Representatives from 1962 to 1970, Larry held a number of prominent positions, including Chairman of the Congressional Redistricting Committee, Assistant Majority Floor Leader, and eventually

Speaker pro tempore. He was proud of sponsoring many bills, including authoring the bill which created the Oklahoma Ethics Commission.

Larry became the youngest Attorney General in state history in 1970. Larry provided leadership in law enforcement, consumer protection, government openness, and enforced integrity from government agencies. During his eight years as Attorney General, Larry established the Consumer Protection Division, the State Narcotics Commission, and ousted a number of prominent politicians—often to the detriment of his own political interests.

Larry founded the Derryberry & Naifeh law firm in Oklahoma City in 1979. Through giving personal attention and advice to his clients, Larry quickly became integral with his clients, their lives and their work. He served as General Counsel to the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and Western Farmer Electric Cooperative beginning in 1984. As their first attorney, Larry helped establish and cherished serving as general counsel for the Oklahoma Property & Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association. In addition to his legal work, Larry was a registered lobbyist in Oklahoma and founded Capital Resources Group, a lobbying organization representing various business and charitable interests. He was integral in the formation of SCG Legal, now an international organization of law firms serving in capital cities.

Mr. Burke's biography highlighting Larry's life includes investigations and prosecutions of organized crime figures and corrupt politicians at the highest levels. For Larry, the courage to do the right thing was paramount for a young lawyer. This courage remained with him for life.

