

Re: Eulogy for W.E.LeGrande
Prepared by E.D.LeGrande
April 14, 1999

ON BEHALF OF MY MOTHER, SISTER IRENE AND BROTHER NAT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR WILLIAM E. LEGRANDE'S LIFE AS WELL AS HIS DEATH. OUR FAMILY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE alzheimer's FOUNDATION IN HIS MEMORY.

W.E.LEGRANDE, BETTER KNOWN AS "NED" WAS BORN IN LYNCHBURG, VA. HE WAS THE first I SON OF RUTH AND LUTHER LEGRANDE. A CLOSE FRIEND OF DAD'S RECENTLY SAID, AND I QUOTE, "NED WAS A POWERHOUSE OF A MAN WITH A STRONG CHARACTER THAT COMPLEMENTED HIS 6'-2" 220lb STURDY FRAME." HE DISPLAYED THIS STRONG CHARACTER AT THE TENDER AGE OF 4, WHEN ON THANKSGIVING DAY HE DECLARED HE WOULD NO LONGER EAT MEAT AND REMAINED AN AVOWED VEGETARIAN FOR LIFE.

DAD WAS ALWAYS A HARD WORKER. IN HIS CHILDHOOD HE HELPED HIS FATHER ON THEIR POULTRY FARM AND WORKED AS A PAPER BOY DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS FROM HIS BICYCLE SEVEN DAYS WEEK AND YET MAINTAINED EXCELLENT GRADES IN SCHOOL.

AT AN EARLY AGE DAD PROVED TO BE A NATURAL ATHLETE AND FIERCELY COMPETITIVE IN HIS LEISURE TIME HE COULD USUALLY BE FOUND AT LYNCHBURG'S PLAYGROUND, ON THE BASEBALL DIAMOND, PLAYING ANY POSITION NEEDED IN THE SANDLOT LEAGUE. HE ALSO LOVED NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS AND BECAME AN EAGLE SCOUT AT THE AGE OF 14, ONCE AGAIN DISPLAYING THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES THAT WERE EVIDENT THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE.

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL DAD'S INTERESTS INCLUDED WRITING POETRY AND ATHLETICS. HIS COMPETITIVE EDGE WAS KEEN, LETTERING IN TRACK AND BASKETBALL AS WELL AS CAPTAIN OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM. WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM E.C.GLASS HIGH SCHOOL DAD WAS AWARDED A FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIP TO THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

DAD CONTINUED HIS EAGLE LEADERSHIP IN HIS COLLEGE YEARS. HE WAS CAPTAIN OF VARSITY SWIMMING AS WELL AS TRACK, AND CO-CAPTAIN OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM. ALONG WITH HIS ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS DAD WAS ALSO ELECTED JUNIOR CLASS POET, ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL ECHO YEARBOOK AND THE IM-IAN HANDBOOK. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF 13 CLUB, FLAT HAT STAFF, PHOENIX LITERARY SOCIETY, MONOGRAM CLUB AND A MEMBER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITY.

AFTER GRADUATING IN 1936, DAD CONTINUED HIS EDUCATION AT THE WILLIAM AND MARY SCHOOL OF LAW, MARRIED HIS BRIDE OF 60 YEARS, HELEN GUDEBROD AND BEGAN PLAYING SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL FOR THE RICHMOND ARROWS; FARM TEAM TO THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS. THIS WAS A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR DAD.

HE PLAYED WITH THE ARROWS FOR 3 YEARS AND OCCASIONALLY STEPPED IN AS A TACKLE OR GUARD FOR THE REDSKINS. DAD LEFT THE GRIDIRON IN THE FALL OF 1940 AND STARTED HIS FIRST FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT WITH THE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF VIRGINIA. BASED IN RICHMOND HE SERVED AS AN ABC BOARD INSPECTOR COVERING SOUTHERN VIRGINIA.

MOVING TO DOUGLASSVILLE, PA. IN THE EARLY 40'S DAD BEGAN WORKING WITH GUDEBROD BROS. SILK CO. DAD BROUGHT TO GUDEBROD HIS UNCANNY ABILITY TO RESEARCH AND FIND TALENTED INDIVIDUALS WHICH HE THEN CONVINCED TO RELOCATE AND JOIN THE FAMILY BUSINESS. SOME OF THESE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE ARE STILL WITH GUDEBROD TODAY.

DUE TO HIS INTEREST IN SPORTFISHING DAD SOON HAD THE COMPANY INVOLVED IN MANUFACTURING QUALITY FLY LINES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER CAME ROD WINDING THREADS AND FISHING LURES. IN THE MID 60'S, HE WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF MAKING BONDED NYLON THREAD. DAD SERVED AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN MAY OF 1979.

AT ONE POINT IN HIS LIFE HE BECAME INTERESTED IN SHOW HORSES. TOGETHER WITH MUCH DETERMINATION AND SACRIFICE MY AUNT ALICE AND FATHER, AS HER MENTOR, ACTUALLY WENT TO THE HORSE SHOW AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN IN NEW YORK CITY, WINNING A NATIONAL EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS OUR FATHER'S INTEREST SHIFTED TO RAISING AND TRAINING IRISH SETTERS FOR FIELD TRIAL COMPETITION. HIS MISSION OR GOAL WAS TO RESTORE THE IRISH SETTER AS A TRUE FIELD DOG. IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE HE AND THREE COMPANIONS FOUNDED THE NATIONAL RED SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA. HIS EFFORTS WERE TO IMPROVE THE BREED. DAD PRODUCED SEVERAL NATIONAL CHAMPION RED SETTERS. THE OFFSPRING OF HIS WINNING SETTERS HAVE CONTINUED TO PRODUCE CHAMPION DOGS TO THIS DAY.

THERE WERE OTHER INTERESTS LIKE COACHING HIS SONS IN YMCA SWIMMING, TRAILER CARAVANS TO WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS, ALASKA AND CENTRAL AMERICA, COLLECTING ORCHIDS AND MINERALS WITH MOTHER, AND GARDENING.

DAD'S SPECIAL INTERESTS AND HOBBIES VARIED OVER THE YEARS BUT HIS SUCCESS OF EACH INTEREST FOLLOWED A STRUCTURED PATTERN. REALIZING A GOAL, THOROUGH RESEARCH OF HIS INTEREST, COMPETING WITH THE BEST PLAYERS AND EVEN IF HE WON, HE NEVER STOPPED UNTIL HE BECAME A CHAMPION OR TRAINED ONE. FATHER AND MOTHER MOVED TO FLORIDA IN 1979. THESE WERE THEIR GOLDEN YEARS WHEN HE FINALLY HAD TIME TO GROW ORANGES AND TAKE LONG WALKS ON THE BEACH WITH MOTHER. ON ANY GIVEN DAY YOU COULD FIND DAD PRUNING OR GRAFTING ONE OF HIS MANY TROPICAL FRUIT AND NUT TREES WITH ONE OF THEIR Siamese CATS BESIDE HIM. MOTHER WOULD NOT BE FAR AWAY, EYE~ WATERING HER ORCHIDS OR PREPARING ONE OF HER VEGETARIAN MEALS FOR DAD AND YES ANOTHER CAT WOULD BE WITH HER.

WATCHING COLLEGE AND PRO FOOTBALL GAMES WAS ONE OF DAD'S FAVORITE PASTIMES AS WELL AS KEEPING METICULOUS RECORDS ON THE PLAYERS. EACH YEAR HE WOULD SUBMIT HIS 1ST ROUND DRAFT PICK TO DON SHULA OF THE MIAMI DOLPHINS. WHEN EVER WE VISITED THERE WAS ALWAYS A COMMAND PERFORMANCE TO GO ON A LONG BIKE RIDE. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT DAD WOULD ALWAYS GIVE ME THE BIKE WITH THE BIGGEST, WIDEST SEAT, AND WOULD RIDE BEHIND ME WITH CAMERA IN HAND. "OH YEA" HE LOVED A GOOD LAUGH, "A DIE HARD PRACTICAL JOKER," AS MANY OF YOU KNOW.

IN CLOSING, NED LEGRANDE WAS A DYNAMIC HUMAN BEING WHO TOUCHED SO MANY LIVES WITH HIS CHARISMA, INTELLIGENCE, COMPETITIVENESS AND LOVE FOR LIFE. AND YES EVEN NEAR THE END HE COULD STILL CATCH THAT FOOTBALL!!

WITH ALL OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS NONE IS GREATER THAN OUR FATHER'S
GENEROUS LOVE GIVEN TO HIS WIFE, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

THE EAGLE HAS FLOW
MAY GOD BLESS HIM