

I want to thank David's family and the Reverend Alsbrooks for asking me to join in the celebration of the life of my good friend and colleague David Williams. I am grateful for this opportunity. I will risk the label of 'Captain Obvious' that my kids so often like to pin on me, and begin by---stating the obvious, we have lost the association of a Great Man. And I can assure you that that fact becomes very clear, very quickly as you list the many significant contributions that David Williams has quietly provided to our community.

At my age I get to go to a lot of funerals, and usually I get to sit out there with you and think. As I reflect, one of the things that I have concluded is that while our lives are challenging and a lot of fun that none of us are indispensable. I've already have a few people in mind that I believe can do my job as good as I can, and maybe even better. But and I said all that to say this: it is going to take 3 or 4 capable and anxiously engaged people to fill David's shoes.

When I get through with my comments, and while I believe them are all accurate and without exaggeration, I worry that some may wonder if David might have been eligible to follow Enoch or Elijah into heaven without tasting death. But I assure you that David was human just like the rest of us, with his human frailties, maybe he fought with his siblings or maybe he kicked at dogs or hated cats, I don't know anything about all that, but let me tell you what I do know:

David Williams served honorably as San Saba County Attorney for 24 years, he has been the chairman of our local Historical Commission, for, well I guess probably forever (By the way, he began the application for the State Restoration Grant funds that eventually allowed us to restore our courthouse, and I'm especially glad that he saw its completion before his sudden departure.), he worked with Friends of Rylander Library and the Boy Scout Organization, he was a great and outspoken champion for child advocacy and a member of the CASA directors' board, he was on the San Saba Child Welfare Board, and he also served on the MHMR board of 'The Center for Life Resources' while working tirelessly locally to help those with mental or emotional disabilities to find both good work and a good place in society, he also wanted every child to have Christmas presents, if you think that in the real world all kids get present you might want to think again, so every year he and his elves planned, organized, and eventually stayed up late into the night wrapping the presents for the Angel Christmas Tree that our volunteer fire department delivered Christmas Day, with special attention paid to

the nearly 30 foster kids in our county. They were his kids and he knew each individually by name and by situation, and God help the person that allowed red tape or government regulations to interfere with the prompt and appropriate assistance of those kids.

When I arrived at the courthouse in 2003 as the newly elected San Saba County judge he was doing all that and more. Now, with some hesitation, I will confess to you that in a previous life time my family and I resided in (wait for it) New York City, and worse still, my family and I would actually go to the theater. Hey, like I said nobody's perfect ! Anyway, Lisa and I took the kids to see Phantom of the Opera on Broadway shortly before we moved down here to God's country. But we did get here as quickly as possible. Anyway, back to the play, for those that don't remember 'The Phantom', he was the genius with the partial face mask that writes all the music, coaches the singing, basically runs the entire opera house, and he lives in the catacombs beneath the opera house. I had just arrived, but it didn't take me long to see a parallel between the phantom and David, with the only major flaw being the missing caverns beneath our courthouse, David was dedicated, one might even say driven, in performing all his many amazing tasks, I suspected that he even lived in the courthouse so he became 'The Phantom of the Courthouse.'

Lisa I are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In our faith there are 13 Articles of Faith. They are meant to summarize the members' goals and beliefs, but mostly they are the things that we aspire to become. It seemed that David was a shoe-in for the 13th Article of Faith, and trust me it is not one of the easy ones. It goes like this: We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all people; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Lisa and I were much impressed with David and we became good friends. He was a church goer, though it appeared that David joined in worship with several different denominations and enjoyed learning about many Christian faiths. In the end we understood that David was a solid Presbyterian, but more to the point David just loved our Savior Jesus Christ and he had learned the importance of a life to dedicated to charity as described in

1Corinthians13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

The picture that I'm painting probably does not match many peoples' image of a 'Lawyer' but that fits David to a tee, and David wasn't just any lawyer, he was a very good lawyer and very great prosecutor who was asked to serve as president of the Texas District and County Attorney's Association of Texas. Now, before I go any further I want to clear something up, although attorneys as a whole get a pretty bad rap thanks to a few highly visible bad apples in that profession, I have found that here in San Saba we are privileged to have a fantastic group of attorneys. They are cut from the same cloth as David but with one significant difference. That difference is explained by the second name with which I aggravated David: Pro-Bono Williams. For those of you that are not familiar with that legal term or maybe you don't speak Latin, Pro-Bono means 'free legal work for the public good.' All our attorneys do pro bon work, but David with his strong commitment to community, friends and family must have felt that his income from working in the family business was enough. He didn't charge. Yesterday I was reminiscing with Flora Vasquez, and we both agreed: Bottom line is he just wanted to help people. And he also had a great sense of humor. This I didn't know: Flora told me that when someone asked for help he would almost always agree to help, and of course their next question was how much that was going to cost. His immediate quip was: "Just like always I'll charge you \$5,000 dollars." I can just hear him say that, -----but his bills never went out.

In Matthew 25:34 We read: Then shall the King say unto those on His right hand, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee a hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, I especially like the next three verses and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

A very wise person once told me, and you have got listen closely: “ We are not the living going towards death, but rather we are the dying going towards life.”

David set a very high bar, but I believe that all us who genuinely love Jesus Christ and strive to follow His teachings and example, imperfect though we are, will eventually be welcomed into the Kingdom of God. And as Brother Sam often reminds us: “It’s not because we are good, but it’s because He is Good.” He knows each of us by name. His love is constant, and through His supernal sacrifice our great debt has been paid.

I am grateful for David’s life, for his example, and the influence he has had on me, my family, and our community. I firmly believe that there is a very special place reserved for David at the Savior’s side, and yes I believe that he is probably working as hard as ever.

My thanks to David, and to each of you. May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you until we meet again.

Thank you,
Byron Theodosios