



UNC  
SCHOOL OF LAW

NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW

---

Volume 64 | Number 2

Article 1

---

1-1-1986

# Tribute to William Brantley Aycock: Foreword

Kenneth S. Broun

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.unc.edu/nclr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Kenneth S. Broun, *Tribute to William Brantley Aycock: Foreword*, 64 N.C. L. REV. 205 (1986).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.unc.edu/nclr/vol64/iss2/1>

This Comments is brought to you for free and open access by Carolina Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Carolina Law Review by an authorized administrator of Carolina Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [law\\_repository@unc.edu](mailto:law_repository@unc.edu).

# TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BRANTLEY AYCOCK: FOREWORD

KENNETH S. BROUN†

The retirement of Professor William Brantley Aycock in December 1985 was both an unhappy and a joyful occasion at the University of North Carolina School of Law. It was unhappy because the School lost Professor Aycock as a full-time teacher and faculty member. Bill Aycock was the mainstay of this faculty almost from the day he joined it until the day he retired. But the occasion was also a happy one because it gave us an opportunity to remember and to celebrate all that Bill Aycock has accomplished for this School, this University, this State, and this Nation.

Professor Aycock was born on October 26, 1915, in Lucama, North Carolina. He grew up in Selma. He received a B.S. degree in Education from North Carolina State University in 1936 and an M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1937. He was a public school teacher in Greensboro from 1937 to 1940 and worked as a Federal Security Agent from 1940 to 1942. In 1942 he was commissioned an officer in the United States Army and served in combat in Europe. Professor Aycock rose to the rank of colonel, and his courage was recognized by the receipt of the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Legion of Merit. He entered the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1945 and graduated, first in his class and editor in chief of the *North Carolina Law Review*, in 1948. Immediately after his graduation, Professor Aycock joined the Law School faculty where, except for interludes as a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Texas and Virginia and as Chancellor of this University, he has remained. In 1951 he served as Special Assistant to Dr. Frank Porter Graham on the United Nations Mission for India and Pakistan. He became Chancellor of the University in 1957 and served with great distinction until 1964. He was named Kenan Professor of Law in 1966, a rank which he held until his retirement in December. He has been a superb teacher, an author of numerous important articles and monographs on various aspects of legal scholarship, and the coauthor of a leading text on military law.

The three individuals who have written the tributes in this issue of the Law Review are all highly distinguished persons who bring different perspectives on Professor Aycock's many accomplishments. Henry Brandis was a leading member of this faculty for more than thirty years. He served as Dean from 1949 to 1964. His perspective is as a friend and fellow law faculty member. Professor James Godfrey was a member of the faculty of the Department of History at this University for forty-two years. He served as Dean of the Faculty (a position now called Provost of the University) while Professor Aycock was Chancellor. Judge Dickson Phillips was a law school classmate of Professor Aycock. He

---

† Dean, University of North Carolina School of Law.

later served as a faculty colleague and as Dean of the Law School from 1964 to 1974.

To these fitting and eloquent tributes, I can add only a few inadequate words. William Brantley Aycock has been the ideal faculty member. He has achieved superiority in teaching, in scholarship, and in public service. He has supplied his colleagues and his dean with good and wise counsel. He has consistently supported his school, his colleagues, and his dean effectively and with good grace and humor.

The School and University have lost much because Bill Aycock will no longer be a full-time faculty member, but we are a significantly better place because he was here.