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A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PROFESSOR DAVID GREGORY

*Colleen Khoury**

It is my privilege, on behalf of the University of Maine School of Law, to welcome you to this celebration of the life of one of the Law School's most distinguished graduates and teachers, Professor David Dolliver Gregory.

This is a terribly sad day for all of us gathered here. David was an important part of our lives—whether as our colleague, our teacher, our friend, or our family member—and his untimely death leaves a huge void. But, despite our sadness and regret, we also gather to celebrate—to celebrate David's life in the law. There is, as you all know, much to celebrate. Since the announcement of David's death on December 9th, I have received letters, e-mails, and telephone calls from scores of his former and current students. It has been deeply moving for me to read these tributes to David, and to share, in some small way, the profound impact that he has had on the lives of so many.

The end came too quickly for David and for all of us. But his valor, his optimism, and his good humor in facing down and fighting his cancer over the past four years has been an inspiration to us all. Through several rounds of chemotherapy, David rarely, if ever, missed a class. Despite the dire prognosis he received in October, he was fully intending to complete the fall semester. And, even from his hospital bed in the last few weeks, he was thinking of his students, preparing outlines for Chuck Remmel and David Cluchey, who generously and grievously stepped in to complete his courses. David had a deep and abiding love for his Law School and for his students, and he was with them *fully* until the end.

There is no way, in this Service, that we will be able to capture David's life in all its aspects. He was much too complex for that. Our efforts to pay tribute to him will be mere brushstrokes, not a complete portrait. David asked that this service be a celebration of his life in the law and of his professional achievements, rather than of his personal life, and we have honored that request. David also suggested the names of many of those speaking today. And it was he who suggested this wonderful place, the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, mostly for its beauty, but also because it would be "convenient" for many of his former students. Once again, David was right!

* Dean and Professor of Law, University of Maine School of Law.