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Hobart Coffey

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This issue is dedicated to the memory of Hobart Coffey

HOBART COFFEY

*Memorial Resolution of the University of
Michigan Law Faculty*

HOBART COFFEY died on September 14, 1969, four years after retirement from the faculty with which he had been associated for nearly forty years as law librarian and professor of law. As with any man, when the time comes to assess his life one part of the assessment relates to his performance in his chosen work, the other is a summation of his qualities as a human being. In his chosen work Hobart Coffey more than any other person or group of persons was responsible for the fact that the library of this law school is one of the world's great law libraries. This was one of his goals and he achieved it superbly. In doing so he gave unsparingly of his time and constantly brought to the task both scholarship and imagination. He demonstrated rare ability in bringing together a library staff of high quality, and in making the best use of their diverse talents.

As to the man, it is difficult to say true things about him without the use of words regarded as trite. His virtues were many and his imperfections were of the kind that did not detract from his humanity. His central quality, something that lay at the core of his being, was a quality of goodness—goodness in the best sense of the

word. Much more could be said but it will be left where it is, stored in the memories of those who knew him well.

He served the law school with distinction and the remembrance of his life is cherished by his friends and colleagues.