

15 BROAD STREET
NEW YORK

19 May 1937

Honorable Willis Van Devanter
2101 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Justice:

I had a bad quarter of an hour yesterday when I read the news of your retirement. It is quite understandable, however, and if anyone has earned his otium cum dignitate, you have. But I cannot see you go without expressing my personal regret, coupled with wishes for many years of peace and comfort.

During the whole time of my intimate knowledge of the Supreme Court you have been one of the bulwarks. I feel what I am sure all the lawyers of the United States feel, a sense of personal gratitude for the services you have rendered. You have full right to the satisfaction that comes from the knowledge that you have the good will not only of all those with whom you served on the Court, but of every lawyer in the United States—that is, all the lawyers whose good will I think you would value. I wish to be enrolled among that number and claim the right to sign myself,

Sincerely your friend,

John W. Davis