

# *Reflections of William Buchanan Daniel, IV*

I grew up the son of two graduates of Louisiana State University. Although I grew up in the shadow of the University of Texas and Texas A&M, my parents left me little doubt as to where I would attend college. My father went so far as to say there was a law requiring the first son of two LSU graduates to attend LSU. While I didn't believe that, I none the less packed my bags for Baton Rouge.

I was assigned to the North Stadium Dormitory, fourth floor. While it wasn't the Ritz, after acquiring a large box fan, it was comfortable. Thus, I began my new life at LSU and in Louisiana. I didn't think about it at the time, but I was never to return to Texas.

I chose petroleum engineering because my father was a petroleum engineer. I have done many things in my life because I watched my father do them while I was growing up. My father was ultimately responsible for my plunge into politics. My Dad received a scholarship to LSU courtesy of Governor Earl Long and the state of Louisiana. Growing up, he

always reminded me of how fortunate our family was for him to receive that scholarship and get a good education and good job. He told me our family owed the state a great debt. I, too, believe my good education was responsible for my business success. Finally, I had a chance to repay the debt to the state. I decided to run for State Representative and give back something to the state that gave me and my family so much. However, I must admit that no one was more surprised than I, when I was elected in 1995 to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

I initially thought an engineering background did not prepare me for the Louisiana Legislature. However, over time I have come to believe my engineering degree and engineering background are valuable assets in the legislature. I say this as encouragement to engineers to get involved in public service. Engineers are not often interested in politics. I suspect the political process offends our sense of logic. We are not, however, narrow-minded technocrats, and are much better

suiting to politics than we think. Our special skills in problem solving can make our state a much better place to work and raise our families. We not only know the right things to do, but also how to do things right.

I like public service and I like trying to help the state, particularly higher education and LSU. It helps having my wife support me in this effort, because it is time consuming, and Lynda feels as strongly as I do about our commitment to the state. We want our five children to stay in Louisiana and find jobs that will satisfy them. I also hope my children will follow in my footsteps and attend LSU. In fact, I might pass a law.