

Remarks by Luther Markwart
2015 National Technology Leadership Summit (NTLS)
Presidents' Dinner
Smithsonian's Museum of American History
Washington, D.C.
October 1, 2015

The Terry Markwart Award for Corporate Leadership

Thank you on behalf of our family – especially our parents – for offering this tremendous award. Our 92 year old father and 87 year old mother have been married 68 years. Of their six children (three boys and three girls) they have lost two sons and a daughter and I cannot express the recent pain they have suffered with the loss of their beloved eldest son, Terry. So this celebration and remembrance of his contribution to the education of our nation's youth is very special to our family.

It is both ironic and prophetic, that we meet to honor him tonight in this museum. He spent his first seven years getting his education in a one room country school built in 1885 (130 years old). When he was in high school studying American History, he was not greatly interested in it, nor did he excel academically in the subject. When questioned as to why he was not doing too well in the class, his response was he would rather make history than study it. And so he did, and here we are.

He wanted his life to count and to make a difference for the future of this country. That is why he especially loved working with the special opt/Navy Seals to make our nation and the world a safer place. He also knew that in a global economy, the competition would be greater and our nation's long term future and success depended on a well-educated population.

So living in the digital and visual world that we find ourselves in today, the challenge was to make all of the educational disciplines exciting and interesting for students. He saw the challenges and opportunities facing educators and wanted to support them to excite, engage and capture their student's passion to learn.

I asked him one time why he could do what he did. What made him special? He said he knew how to develop business - which was both art and science. He could see the people's needs and have a vision as to how best to meet and exceed their expectations. He knew all of the people and assets at his disposal to get the job done. And for those of you that knew him well, he was always results oriented. Turning customer's dreams into realities and into memories is what he did and it gave him great satisfaction because it made life better and richer for everyone. He was incredibly persistent, optimistic and enthusiastic. Even at the end of his life, when he could not move his body or speak, he would give us a thumbs-up to lift up our spirits as we suffered with him. It is just who he was and that is what true leadership is. Helping others see your vision and working hard and cooperatively to turn that vision into a reality.

A leader knows he cannot do it alone. Terry would want to make sure that Kim Carrette who was by his side and supported him for 14 years and his colleague Tom Miller were deeply thanked for all they did for him during his years at Canon, as they were a critical part of his team. He highly treasured the leadership and relationship with Glen Bull to collaborate and lead this effort. Glen, somewhere in heaven tonight, Terry has a pedestal and you are on it. Finally, he would give each of you leaders and your associations a huge thank you for your support and commitment for all of your work together.

Again, thank you for your kind gesture to honor and remember him tonight.