**Fricchione Speech [No. 15992]**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Remarks by Dr. Patrick Fricchione on the occasion of his receiving a Com-munity Leadership Award from Marywood University.

dr. turell, president persico, fellow board members . . . faculty and staff of marywood university . . .friends and distinguished guests . . .

thank you, [name of introducer], for those very kind words of introduction. i can’t deny their historical ac-curacy, but i certainly question whether i truly deserve such a generous heaping of praise. i know for sure that i don’t deserve it ***alone***, for only rarely is ***any*** great task accomplished by one man alone.

as we all know, our university’s only recently gotten through one of the most terrible and turbulent times in its history, financially and administratively. the award you’re honoring me with this [morning/afternoon/ even-ing] is obviously in recognition of the role i was able to play in getting marywood through this period of strife more or less intact and — praise [god/jesus] —stronger and more vibrant than ever.

But, as i said, i didn’t perform — couldn’t perform — this role alone. my colleagues on the board of trustees all made tremendous contributions, large and small, that helped get us through the travails of change in one piece. And I’d be remiss in this regard if I didn’t mention, in par-ticular, the wonderful work of [names and roles of trustees].

I’d also be remiss if I didn’t thank my wonderful and understanding wife, [name], for her patience and under-standing, because, let’s face it, all the time i devoted to my “second” job as a marywood board member had to come from *somewhere*, and that “somewhere” all to often was time with her. But she’s always been behind me, always with me. always singin’ from the same hymnbook as me. as it is said in *proverbs*, chapter 31, verse 10: *“a good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds.”* [gesturing toward her, if she’ present] and that’s certainly my [first name]! thank you darling, for everything you do!

in a historical sense, this award isn’t mine alone, either, because i wouldn’t be standing here in the first place if it weren’t for my father, [first name] fricchione, and my uncle, [first name], who were in the construction busi-ness together back in the 1990’s.

i’m not entirely sure how this whole story actually un-folded, but when the fricchione brothers were asked if they might make a financial contribution to help the uni-versity build a daycare center for its faculty, staff, and married students, my dad and uncle came up with a much more audacious plan: they decided they’d build a mod-ern, fully-equipped children’s daycare center on the marywood university campus; and when it was completed in [month] of [year], the fricchione brothers turned over the keys, the deed, and the building to the university’s administratiion, for the school to have and to hold as its own, in perpetuity — *per tutto il tempo*, as the itali-ans say.

my dad remained a major financial contributor to the university for [no.] years before his death in [year], and served as a member of the board of trustees in [years]. and my uncle [name] was a trustee [years/terms]

I probably would never have even ***heard*** of marywood university if it weren’t for my dad and uncle. and of course, it was their example of philanthropy and per-sonal engagement that led me to my own continuing involvment with this wonderful center of learning.

and finally, there’s another “significant other” with whom i must share this award, and that obviously is our lord and savior, jesus christ.

i do not claim to fathom the mind of god; but i know for certain that it was ***his*** guiding hand which led me to do the work being recognized by this [name, if it has one by then] award. it was god’s will and god’s plan, plus the labor of many, that brought marywood through to its new and sparkling future. so even more than feeling honored by this award, i feel supremely blessed to have been given the chance to earn it.

thank you all very much, and god bless you.

**# # #**