President David L. Boren comments
Brian Lamb acceptance remarks and speech

Boren:
Thank you very much Joe, I really appreciate those kind comments. And as we watched this video a moment ago, we were able to feel and to sense the varied student experiences that are available at the Gaylord College. I know it filled me with a tremendous sense of pride, and let me say these things do not happen by accident. That video is a reflection of many people. It’s a reflection of our students, it’s a reflection of our faculty, but above all it’s a reflection of the kind of leadership, which comes from the Dean.

So much of this creative spirit and energy comes from him, and I want us all to thank Dean Joe Foote, once again for his leadership with this college. I’m really pleased to announce that he and Jody have made a decision, which they communicated to me here at the table, “You know my goal is to try to beat Dr. Cross’ record.” I get up with my stationary bike and eat my Wheaties every day, and Joe has just told me, “He’s going to stay every bit as long as I do.” Isn’t that right Joe? I don’t know that I’m quite authorized to make that statement, but that’s what we want to happen.

This is a wonderful occasion, and let me say it’s so great to have OU alumnus Steve Janger here sharing this with Brian Lamb. Because the two of them together have done more than any two people I know to educate all of us, as citizens starting at early age, starting when we’re still high school age about how our government functions, and how it needs to function.

I’m also, not only pleased to be here, but relieved to be here. Because as some of you who were here when we presented this award to Thomas Freedman last time, know that the beautiful Steuben bird, the eagle was not well-anchored last time, and I swear I didn’t touch it! I know many of you do not believe it. But Brian, just as we were getting ready to present it, I simply motioned toward it, and it fell over and it lost its left wing! And we were very concerned about that; although, I knew that Ed Gaylord was looking down on us, and he was so pleased that its left wing broke off instead of its right wing.

I do appreciate the kind words of Joe Foote. But let me say, my involvement is very small in this college, in terms of credit for what is going on. I really am sort of limited to one thing. I one day bought lunch, and have to explain that Ed Gaylord and I went to lunch at the Coach House, and he knew really what it was about. He always knew what I was about. He always anticipated it. And he followed – he was one of the closest observers of people’s actions that I’ve ever known. He really had the great heart, and instincts of a journalist, because he sometimes didn’t say – talk about what he saw, but he virtually saw everything that was going on around him.

So after we had sat down, I don’t even think we had soup. He said, “I know what’s in that little red folder you have with you.” And I said, “Really?” and he said, “Yes, it’s a request for me to
fund the then School of Journalism,” and he said, “I know we’ve shared the dream of it becoming a College of Journalism,” and David Dary and others in this room had been sharing that thought with him. And so he said, “Well just how much is it going to cost to get this going?” And I said, “Well it’s a bargain, it’s only twenty-two million dollars to get the process started.”

And of course since then, other members of the Gaylord family, and the next generation family, and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism and Inasmuch foundations, as well have all continued to join in. And through a combination of gifts from the family we not only built the first building, but we’ve added on considerably to the building. We’ve started so many programs.

We’ve provided opportunities for our students in all different venues and all over the world and it’s really remarkable, so then comes my contribution after Ed really very quickly said, “Yes this is something that I’m really thrilled to have a chance to do, and our family is thrilled to have a chance to do it.” But then when the check came for lunch, as sometimes happened when we had lunch together, but on this occasion especially he said, “You know I just realized I’ve given you so much money I’m afraid you’re going to have to pay for lunch, I’m broke.” So that sort of is the extent of my contribution to what happened at the Gaylord College of Journalism but it was an exciting one.

This day is exciting because we’re celebrating the life and career of a person whose transformative work I saw close-up and firsthand. I had just come to the Senate in January of 1979, to walk right into a huge debate about the broadcasting, and particularly, television broadcasting of U.S. Senate proceedings Gavel to Gavel, and you can imagine that that was a strong debate. There were many people getting me aside and saying, “I want you to vote against that. It’s going to be the end of the world, it’s going to be the end of our republic as we know it if we put Congress on Gavel to Gavel coverage for the American people to watch.” And of course, we all know exactly what happened in terms of the result. The result was that there was an agreement to do so, and indeed, about three months into my career in the Senate for the very first time the lights came on, the cameras came on, and the American people were able to watch the United State Senate and the House of Representatives in session.

Brian, I don’t know if you know that it not only improved the behavior of a lot of the members of Congress now that they were before the lights and the cameras, but it also improved the appearance of some of the members of Congress. One senator who shall remain nameless was very concerned. The early cameras especially, had an angle looking down just as I’m looking down now, it would be as if the camera was pointed down, and we had one senator, very distinguished if you were not looking at the top of his head. But he worried considerably, that there would be a huge shine on the big bald spot in the middle of his head. That’s the reason I was trying to stand erect right now, and that senator was not me, but we all learned, it became not a secret to his colleagues that he went out the day before we were to go on television and had the top of his head painted black, I’m telling the truth, and the rumor further went around that it wasn’t paint, but that he had used black shoe polish on the top of his head. So as he got up to make his first speech in from of the cameras on CSPAN everyone was asking, “Do you think it is Meltonian or Kiwi?”
It was a really interesting thing in all sorts of ways which the Senate was transformed as CSPAN began broadcasting. So it was a remarkable contribution, and we have seen the impact of this particular event of bringing Congress to the American people ever since, so that the people could judge themselves on what was going on. They could judge for themselves an intellectual caliber and quality of their own members of Congress by seeing them in action, and it has been something that has informed us in giving important information to our citizens.

This award, as this award was created, one of the desires of the family and one of the desires of Ed Gaylord was that this award should be given only when merited and it should be given to someone who has had a transformative effect a long term impact that has left a legacy, not only in the profession of journalism, but also really in the history of our country and a lasting impact on our society. I think that is so appropriate, because the family which created this award as we have seen in the video has left a lasting impact on this state. They truly have been pioneer builders of this state from the very beginning in journalism in radio and television, as well as print. And, by the way, they brought the first commercial television operation in the United States to states west of the Mississippi with Channel 4 in the beginning; what a legacy they have left. And not only in broadcasting, and not only in the business profession, but the legacy they have left, in terms of creating institutions early, and then sustaining them through generations in the family institutions that have been so important to our society: cultural performing arts centers; most recently, the great new Cancer Center that has opened to serve all the people of Oklahoma. Just at the University of Oklahoma alone they’ve touched virtually every, single aspect of the University from the OU Press, to the College of Journalism; obviously, in its continued growth and development, to the Energy Center to the athletic facilities.

As I heard the other day, that the game we played on Saturday was played before the largest live audience in the history of the state of Oklahoma. I thought to myself, it would not have been possible for those people to have been in one place to have watched that game without the generosity of the Gaylord family. So they have done so much in so many ways for all of us, and the great thing is that it continues.

Sometimes we see accomplishments by one generation in a family, and we see generosity at work in one generation, and it’s rare and it’s unusual that we see that kind of commitment to a state. That sense of responsibility for a state carried into the next generation, and the next, and now into the next generation of this family. So we not only celebrate the achievements of our honoree today and his lasting impact on our society, but we also celebrate the accomplishments and generosity of the Gaylord family that have made so much possible in our state.

There are several of the members of the family here today, I’d like to ask them to stand together and receive our appreciation: Jim and Christy Everest, and their daughter, Tricia Everest, Clay and Louise Bennett, and their daughter, Molly Bennett. Let us thank the members of the Gaylord family that are here with us today. Also here with us today as the present CEO of the foundations established by Edith Gaylord the sister, of course of Ed Gaylord, a journalist in her own right as the president of the Women’s National Press Club, a person who really opened the doors to women in the field of journalism nationally.
The Inasmuch Foundation and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation were founded through gifts and bequests of the late Edith Gaylord. Here today is Bob Ross, President and CEO of those two foundations and also several members of the Board and Advisory Committees of those two foundations. Bob would you and all the members of the Advisory Committees and trustees of the committees please stand and let us all thank you, as well.

As I said a moment ago, and the actual date was March 19, 1979, Brian helped bring about a transformation of citizenship education in our country by allowing what is now over one hundred-million households; virtually the entire population of the United States to have the opportunity to see Congress in action from Gavel to Gavel coverage, and also with presentations which explained what was happening and help make the American people a part of the political process.

Thomas Jefferson said it so well when he said, “That it is impossible to have a successful democracy without having an educated citizenry at the same time.” We see it over and over again. A remarkable book written by Fareed Zakaria who now is one of the best known commentators on public life in our country The Future of Freedom, spells it out as well. Certain preconditions are necessary for democracy to be able to function.

We’ve seen it as we have sometimes unsuccessfully tried to transplant our own functioning democracy into the areas of the world where there, for example, is absolutely limited literacy, limited education, limited ability to understand the political process, and censored access to information about what is going on in that society. As he concluded, to try to have a successful democracy in those kinds of conditions is like trying to plant a palm tree in Canada and thinking that it’ll live and be vigorous.

So it’s so important, and as we face the challenges that these students will face in their careers, to make sure that we have platforms on which we can use them to bring accurate information to the American people about the political process how we can find financial models that will work.

The same kind of dynamism, the same kind of creativity is going to be required as Dean Foote said, “Of this generation who are in communications and who are in journalism to find ways to bring that information to our public, because without it our whole political system will falter,” and so that is exactly what Brian Lamb did.

His knowledge of Congress itself, his own background as a journalist, his understanding of the possible applications of the technology that was just immerging as it’s been said even before CNN, or ESPN, or Discovery Channel, CSPAN came first, and CSPAN broke ground that has been followed later by others.

This generation of students will have to be that innovative. I listened to that video and as I heard about what’s going on in our college, and as I see it when I visit the college, I feel the energy and I feel the creativity, and we certainly saw imaginations at work, creativity at work. I just want to thank our students and this generation of students for giving us one of the greatest gifts that we could possibly have, and that’s the gift of optimism about our future, because I don’t have any
doubt seeing our students, seeing their ability, seeing the potential that’s being unlocked within them, I have no doubt about the future of this country and this society. There will be the Brian Lamb’s among them that will bring those kinds of innovations and will help us move forward.

I might mention that Brian not only, in essence, was the innovator the founder of CSPAN, but that he also has the distinguished journalistic career of his own. He has interviewed virtually every single President of the United States from Nixon going forward. He has also had an incredible program that many of us have seen Booknotes, which was on the air for over 15 years in which he interviewed more than 800 nonfiction writers, a remarkable show and an inspiring show, a very educational program.

He currently hosts Q&A on Sunday evenings, question and answer sessions with those who are helping shaping our society in politics, and the media and technology, and in so many different areas. He is a distinguished and practicing journalist, in addition to being an innovator and a user of technology to bring us information.

He started out very young; he started building crystal radio and then television sets when he was still a schoolboy. He went to work while he was in high school with his local radio station where he did everything from selling advertising to operating as a disk jockey, among other things in his early career.

He graduated from Purdue in 1963, as has been mentioned because the college there is now named for him, and then joined the U.S. Navy. They had the wisdom of assigning him to work with White House and the Pentagon in Public Affairs, and later he worked for UPI Radio, served at the Senate Press Secretary, and was active again with White House telecommunications later in his career. So he brought together this deep knowledge of our political process, and what needed to be done with his talent and his career as a journalist to serve us all.

So it is, indeed a great pleasure on behalf for me, on behalf of all of you to present the Gaylord Prize to a man who has made a lasting impact on our society and its future Brian Lamb. Brian, would you please come forward? I will not touch the Steuben, but I will hand you a financial symbol of appreciation of the great contributions that you have made. Thank you very, very much.

Lamb:
Thank you so very much. To tell President Boren something that he doesn’t know that for a number of years we were neighbors. We lived in the same townhouse development, but I always saw him out walking his dog and never wanted to disturb him.

You know when you told the story about the senator I know who you were talking about on the floor of the Senate, and I will not name him here today. But the odd thing is that your first recipient of this award, Jim Lehrer has a program that you know that’s on television, and I was on there right about the time that the Senate went on television and I’m standing outside ready to go into the studio with this senator, and I was standing, he’s a little bit taller than I am, and I looked up and I thought, “Oh my God, he’s painted the top of his head!” He’s a very nice guy
and he’s a very sharp guy and I thought, “What in the world!” It wasn’t very long, as you might remember, Mr. President that he stopped that whole thing.

This has been a tremendous day, meaning the last 24 hours; I got in yesterday, I left earthquake Washington and flew into earthquake Oklahoma; I left hurricane Washington and flew into what was supposed to be a severe storm at the airport out here.

It didn’t happen, but then I had the pleasure of sitting next to a gentleman, who I will not name, last night at dinner who told me he’s a professor here at OU that he’s never been to any football games, which I thought was tremendous that he had the guts to tell me here in the middle of this. I come from Indiana, we had Purdue and Indiana: here you have the other place and this place, and we had that kind of rivalry all throughout time, so I know how it feels.

I want to talk just for a couple of minutes to the students, and the reason I want to do that is I thought about what life was like for me when I was your age. I had a lot of experiences after I left Purdue University, which I loved as I know you love this place. I have kind of an index when I talk to people when I go out like this and it’s the eye-rolling index, and I’ll ask them, “What do you think of the President of your university?” Expecting somebody to say, “Oh he’s okay,” and then they roll their eyes, but I’m happy to report to you Mr. President that you are incredibly well-liked here, including the fact that Joe Foote told me on the phone before I came here: you are the single most popular man in the State of Oklahoma.

When I graduated from Purdue I went into the navy. Right before that, and I say this to you students that are juniors and seniors, that everybody at school told me I should be a lawyer, and unfortunately, I listened to them. The first mistake that I made was applying and being accepted at Indiana University Law School, and I went to that Indiana University Law School and I stayed for three days. Everybody told me I should be a lawyer, except I didn’t want to be a lawyer. I mention that only because that was my first mistake as I started to head out of Purdue University. If you’re in that kind of position right now, listen to yourself before you listen to others. Because in the end I kept listening to my father say, “You’ve got to be a lawyer it’s a license to steal.” “Thanks Dad.”

Fortunately, I really stayed only three days – kind of a pain in the neck, but I stayed three days and then I went into the navy. I went on a ship, and I was on a ship for two years, and then I asked in the middle of all that if I could go to Washington and go to the Pentagon. I wanted to be a Public Affairs Officer, and the captain that I went to visit with in the Pentagon said, “I think we can make this work.”

The next thing I know, I get orders after being on the ship for 2 years and those orders said, “You’ll remain on the ship for another 2 years.” Boy was I mad! I picked up the phone, and called the captain, and I was just a lowly ensign on the bottom, and I asked the captain I said, “Captain you told me I could come to Washington, and I could come to the Pentagon after I served on a ship for 18 months to 2 years. I got my orders and I’m not going to get this job.” I was quite upset, I really wanted to come to Washington, and he said, “Well, let me check into
this, can you give us more time?” And I said, “What do you mean?” and he said, “Would you extend your requirement?” And I said, “How much?” and he said, “Oh 6 months,” I said, “Absolutely!”

I met another wall there that suggests that you have to be quick, as you get out of school and you decide what you want to do, because these opportunities only come up, and they come up very quickly. And I said, “Yes,” and he came back to me; I got the trip to Washington; and spent 2 years at the Pentagon.

Then a very important thing happened for my education: people ask me what my profession is, and I said I’m in the business of learning. I’ve always been that way. I wasn’t a great student, I’m not sure I could even get into OU today, I’m not kidding you, I was not a good student, but I loved to learn.

So when I got to Washington, I thought there might be something connected to the White House, something — they call them social aides, and I inquired with a friend of mine and asked her. And she worked for Bayh of Indiana, at the time; she called me back and said, “Go to this commander in the navy and he’ll interview you.” I did that, and he sent me over to the White House, and I interviewed with the Social Secretary of Lyndon Johnson, and she said, “You’ve got the job.” And I was 1 of 25 people that were selected to do that, and all you really were — were gophers for the First Family, but then I met a very important man that’s in this audience today — Tim Leonard.

Judge Tim Leonard and his wife Nancy, they’re sitting right down here. And the reason I mention that, is because it’s a thrill for me to come back to this town, go to his chambers today, and look at our beginning. I remember saying to him, we were sitting there talking this morning and I said, “I feel the same way today as I did back then,” which was in 1966 and 1967. There was a picture on the wall of us when we were there and it was in the middle of the Vietnam War, and it’s interesting because in the very room that picture was taken I got another lesson about power in Washington and ego.

I got a call one day, I was one of those that introduced, I’m sure Tim did this too, introduced guests to the President. You’d stand right next to him and somebody would come and say, “David Boren,” and I would look at the President and say David Boren, just in case there was a lapse of memory, because he only met thousands of people.

The President was very upset one day and he said, “I don’t understand it, I see these pictures come across the desk all the time,” and they have these big contact sheets and he said, “And you always,” and he’s looking at me and he said, “You always have me in a position where the wrong side of my face is being photographed.”

I thought to myself, “I can’t believe I’m hearing this!” He was ticked. I remember saying to him, and I was telling Tim about this just this morning, I pointed my finger at the President of the United States and said, “Mr. President if you’d stand still we wouldn’t have this problem.”
I wanted that picture badly, and I asked this photographer at the White House if I could get a copy of that picture. And he said, “Sure I’ll see what I can do,” and I got a picture in the mail a couple of weeks later and the picture was not me pointing to the President and saying, “Mr. President would you please stand still,” it was a picture of the President pointing to me with his finger out saying, “I’m the President of the United States and you’re not!”

To get to this visit, by the way, for me one of the really fun things and she isn’t going to believe this, but Sarah Fullerton is in the audience and Sarah has kind of helped me get around. I’m old and tired and can’t go very fast and she said, “I’ll take you around,” and I’ve had a tremendous experience meeting Sarah.

Can you believe that a 20 year old is about to graduate from this place and go on with her life? She’ll never have days like she had here again, but Sarah you’ve been a delight to be with and thank you for your hospitality. This hospitality has got to be right at the top of what you do here at OU.

In a creation of CSPAN, I didn’t do it; a whole bunch of people did it. And you’d be interested knowing that a man who went to this university was the first person to ever help me. He didn’t graduate from here, he spent 2 years here. His name is Bob Tish, you’ve never heard of him. He was the guy that when I was stumbling around trying to get a job said to me, “I’ll hire you and I’ll give you enough money to live on.” He heard my story about wanting to start something, it wasn’t called CSPAN at the time, and he never graduated from college.

I was with him over the weekend at a wedding in Washington; he’s a little bit younger than I am, but I’ve never met a better leader anywhere. He didn’t have a college degree, but he has wonderful fond memories of this place.

Right after CSPAN started, which was a “we, not an I,” twenty-two people were on the board in the beginning, twenty-two co-founders. It was done by a private industry not by the government. Not a dime’s worth of tax-payer money went in it. But right out of the box we didn’t have anything, we had four employees.

We put our signal up on the satellite and let the audience see the Congress in action; and I had a visitor one day, a fellow who I knew in the journalism business, and I’ve always considered myself a journalist and he said, “I’m here representing a guy named Steve Janger;” and I’d never heard of Steve Janger.

He said, “Well we have this thing called the Close-Up Foundation. The Close-Up Foundation is in the business of bringing high school kids to Washington, and we want to do something with you.” Over a period of time I said to Tim, who’s no longer alive unfortunately, I said, “I’d love to talk.”

That was the first thing that I’d wanted to do was connect, with what we do here, with young people. We had no money; we had $480,000 the first year. But this famous OU graduate, Steve
Janger and I got to be very good close friends. We still are to this day. We just had lunch a couple of weeks ago in Washington.

But he did something that he got very little credit for this over the years. He bought for us two cameras, a tape machine, the lights, and all the equipment. And the deal was we could use it, they would own it; we could use it to do anything, as long as we did programs with kids, which was a real tough bargain. But this guy is unique, 650,000 high school kids came to Washington during his reign at the Close-Up Foundation and spent a week there. And they weren’t elitist kids, they weren’t the best. They were the ones that were interested: the ones that couldn’t get the A’s, or the B’s, and got the C’s, but wanted to come to Washington and have this experience.

So we took the equipment, two TK76 RCA cameras, I’ll never forget it. I went to New Jersey and picked them up. Those two cameras were the way that we covered the Congress and the Senate in the hearing rooms for the first time, and so what a thrill it is to have Steve here! I’ve got to tell you Steve, I want you to stand up again and let this audience thank you for what you did for kids. I’ll still be your friend; I’ll still take you to lunch in Washington, don’t be mad at me, but please stand, Steve Janger.

I’ll tell you though, I walked into Washington rather naïve. I had some experiences along the way that changed all that to where I am now today, as a journalist, a doubter. And what I mean by a doubter is that no matter what circumstance I’m in it just clicks in, is this real. We have, at the present time in this country, a rather difficult problem, but I’ve seen a lot of shenanigans over the years in Washington, and it’s just part of the education.

When I went to work for a senator from Colorado in 1969 as his Press Secretary, as Joe did in Washington as Press Secretary, the first day on the job — and believe this or not, I think Senator, Governor, President Boren will be interested in this. This fellow had hired me, because he wanted to run for Vice President against Spiro Agnew who he couldn’t stand. And I’d never been a member of a Party, and this was a job for me and it was a great experience, I was only 26 years old.

The first day on the job he said, “I want national publicity.” So I had a friend that was a producer to the Today Show and I called her up and said, “I’m going to work for a senator from Colorado,” and she said, “Well why don’t we have him on the Today Show?” and I thought, wow – man, this is going to be impressive! The first day on the job I walked into his office and I said, “Senator how about being on the Today Show tomorrow?” And he looked up and kind of puzzled, “How did you do that so quickly?” And I said, “Well I just know this person at the Today Show.”

His administrative assistant was in the room and he looked like he had just seen a ghost and waving me saying, “No, no! No, the senator can’t go on the Today Show tomorrow.” And I said, “Why?” And, “Well he just can’t.” I’m the Press Secretary and I’m getting this from the administrative assistant, “He just can’t.” And I said, “Well why can’t he?” And he said, “Well because he’s going into the hospital tomorrow.” “He’s going into the hospital? Why is he going into the hospital?” “He’s tired. He’s had a campaign and just re-elected; no problem, he’s just
exhausted, he’s going into the hospital.” I said, “Oh that’s really interesting,” thinking to myself, oh my God, I just took this job; I can’t get him on the Today Show. The senator looks up and says, “I’m going to go on the Today Show,” so he went on the Today Show.

But then I was more worried, not about the Today Show, but I thought to myself now I’m the new Press Secretary; I wasn’t from Colorado; we weren’t connected in any way politically and I said, “What are we going to tell the press?” The administrative assistant said, “We’re going to tell the press just what I told you.” I said, “Is that true?” and he said, “Well yeah, I mean the senator is exhausted.”

I said, “Well I’m not going to tell the press and I know this is not a moral story, I’m not going to tell the press something that isn’t true for this reason: if it’s not true, and I tell the press that he has gone into the hospital because he’s exhausted, then they find out there’s something else going on, they’ll never believe me for the rest of the time.”

So the senator, to his credit said, “Well it’s not true, I’m not exhausted. I have a serious problem, and we’re going to go in and find out how to fix it.”

The long story short, he goes into the hospital; it turns out he’s got major heart problems; he doesn’t come back to the office for 6 weeks; and he agreed to let me have a news conference the next day, which I announced exactly what was wrong with him. He had angina, and a few other things, and a bad heart, and we told the press the truth. That helped me for the next two years that I worked for him – he trusted me.

But as you leave this school and get out into the real world you’ve got a tremendous foundation. But these things, like that story you’re not really ready for, until it happens to you. Along the way you’re going to have to make a decision as journalists, or as PR people or as a Press Secretary to a member of Congress, on whether or not you’re going to stick up for your principals, or are you going to go with the flow?

We’ve had a lot of people in the last several years go with the flow. Some of you probably saw 60 Minutes last Sunday with Jack Abramoff; he’s just the tip of the iceberg. And it’s amazing how often Washington passes a law, passes a rule, passes a Senate rule, a House rule, and then the first thing everybody does is how do we get around this?

And the fact that I’m here, and that Joe Foote is the Dean of this college, makes this experience first rate. I’m associated with my own university, Purdue University, and there’s something very much missing and that’s the name Gaylord. And I’d like to, at this time, invite the Gaylord’s to get interested in Purdue University like they have here at the University of Oklahoma.

But Joe, thank you, I’m here because of Joe Foote. Joe Foote, when he was a graduate student, came to visit me in our little tiny offices, and from that day forward he just wanted to get to know us, and how we did our thing, and he was so supportive then; he’d worked for Carl Albert and Dave McCurdy. But all along the way, Joe has been just the kind of guy that picks up the phone and calls and says, “I love what you’re doing, I’m coming to visit, can we have a
moment?” He introduced me to his son, Jackson, Jody’s son Jackson; and spent some time with Jackson; I called him “Action Jackson.” He’s now getting his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

But that’s why this award means so much to me, and our colleagues back at C-SPAN is because of somebody like Joe Foote. And you all are very lucky.

This is a very nice, friendly, interesting, and exciting place to be. And I’m afraid to look over here at this eagle, because if David Boren broke it last time, and I look at it and it breaks again you know they can’t afford to get another one.

But really, thank you very much for having this award, having this day. But also, keep in mind you young folks that you’re going to need others, lots of other people. And I accept the award for all the people, whether its Tim Leonard, or Joe, Steve Janger, Bob Tish, my friend that went here, and lots of other people in the cable television industry. Thank you very much.