

**THANK YOU FATHER (*Tim, Les Aspin Center Director*)
O'BRIEN FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION
AND FOR THIS AWARD. YOU DO WONDERFUL WORK
IN WASHINGTON GETTING STUDENTS FROM
WISCONSIN READY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK WISCONSIN ELECTRIC,
AND CHAIRMAN DICK ABDOO IN PARTICULAR, FOR
MAKING THIS EVENT HAPPEN TODAY.**

**YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE LES ASPIN CENTER IS
HELPING PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DOZENS
OF WISCONSIN STUDENTS TO HAVE THE CHANCE
TO ENTER PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**I'D ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE, AMONG OTHERS,
MARQUETTE PRESIDENT FATHER ROBERT WILD,
JOHN BURKE (*Burke Properties*), BILL DREW, AND
ULICE PAYNE AND SHARON HAVERSTOCK FOR
THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ASPIN CENTER.**

THE ASPIN CENTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME, BECAUSE I AM A BIG BELIEVER IN PUBLIC SERVICE. I BELIVE THAT THE GREEK WRITER HOMER WAS RIGHT MORE THAN 2,000 YEARS AGO WHEN HE SAID, "HE SERVES ME MOST, WHO SERVES HIS COUNTRY BEST."

THOSE WORDS COULD HAVE EASILY DESCRIBED LES ASPIN. LES ASPIN WAS A VERY POWERFUL PERSON IN WASHINGTON, SPENDING MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN CONGRESS AND 2 YEARS AS DEFENSE SECRETARY. YET, DESPITE HIS POWER, ASPIN USED HIS SENIORITY TO BENEFIT THE PUBLIC, NOT HIMSELF.

ASPIN WAS ALWAYS VERY RESPONSIVE TO WISCONSIN NEEDS, NOT HIS OWN. I REMEMBER WORKING WITH HIM VERY CLOSELY IN 1987 AFTER CHRYSLER ANNOUNCED IT WAS SHUTTING DOWN ITS PLANT IN KENOSHA.

WE WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE CHRYSLER EMPLOYEES RECEIVED A GOOD

**SEVERANCE PACKAGE, AND WE MADE SURE
CHRYSLER COMMITTED TO KEEP ITS ENGINE
PLANT IN KENOSHA OPERATING.**

**THIS CRISIS HELPED US BUILD A GREAT WORKING
RELATIONSHIP. IT WAS A RELATIONSHIP THAT
WOULD SERVE WISCONSIN WELL FOR THE NEXT
DECADE.**

**WE MAY HAVE COME FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL
PARTIES, BUT WE CAME FROM SIMILAR
BACKGROUNDS. BOTH LES AND I CAME FROM
WORKING CLASS BACKGROUNDS AND LEARNED
THE IMPORTANCE OF HARD WORK.**

**THAT ALLOWED US TO PUT PARTISAN POLITICS
ASIDE TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR THE STATE.**

**LES WAS SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE HE HAD A GREAT
PERSONALITY.
HE WASN'T EGOTISTICAL. HE WASN'T PROUD. HE
WASN'T ARROGANT. HE WAS THERE TO**

**REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT, AND DO
WHAT HE COULD FOR WISCONSIN.**

**I BET THAT RIGHT NOW, LES IS LOOKING DOWN
FROM HEAVEN SITTING NEXT TO HIS DOG JUNKET,
AND SAYING “ENOUGH ABOUT ME, TALK ABOUT
THE PROGRAM.”**

**LES CARED DEEPLY ABOUT MAKING THIS
PROGRAM A SUCCESS. HE’D BE PROUD TO SEE
WHAT’S GOING ON WITH THE PROGRAM TODAY.**

**I HAVE SEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM
OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE
CENTER’S BOARD OF VISITORS. BUT LES
DESERVES A LOT OF THE CREDIT FOR
TRANSFORMING THIS CENTER INTO A FIRST-RATE
ACADEMIC PROGRAM.**

SINCE 1988, MORE THAN 700 STUDENTS HAVE STUDIED AT THE ASPIN CENTER IN WASHINGTON, ALONG WITH NEARLY 100 LEADERS FROM EASTERN AND WESTERN AFRICA.

IN ADDITION, NEARLY 50 MARQUETTE AND U-W STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ASPIN CENTER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN LONDON, ROME, ATHENS AND NAIROBI.

STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY INTERNING IN CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES, OR IN FEDERAL AGENCIES LIKE THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE SECRET SERVICE. THEY ALSO INTERN AT WISCONSIN CORPORATIONS AND SEE HOW THEY INTERACT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THOSE INTERNSHIPS HAVE TRULY PAID OFF.

NEARLY 50 GRADUATES OF ASPIN PROGRAMS NOW WORK AS PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN THE

**UNITED STATES CONGRESS, INCLUDING THREE AS
CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR HOUSE MEMBERS.**

**SEVERAL GRADUATES NOW HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE,
INCLUDING PEDRO COLON, THE FIRST HISPANIC
EVER ELECTED TO THE WISCONSIN STATE
ASSEMBLY.**

**IT'S ALSO THE ONLY SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN TO
HAVE A PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON D.C. A NUMBER
OF SCHOOLS IN THE UW-SYSTEM, INCLUDING
MADISON AND GREEN BAY, SEND STUDENTS OUT
TO WASHINGTON TO WORK IN THE PROGRAM.**

**THIS PROGRAM IS JUST ONE OF MANY PROGRAMS
THAT HAS MADE MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY A
LEADER IN HIGHER EDUCATION.
FOR MORE THAN 118 YEARS, THE UNIVERSITY HAS
HELPED DEVELOP LEADERS WHO HAVE A DESIRE
TO SERVE OTHERS.**

**IT HAS ALSO SHOWN A FINE TRADITION OF
PLACING GRADUATES IN GOOD JOBS, WHETHER IN**

POLITICS, PUBLIC SERVICE OR THE BUSINESS WORLD.

**ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS HELP SET MARQUETTE
APART AND HELP EXPLAIN WHY
U-S NEWS AND WORLD REPORT HAS RANKED
MARQUETTE AS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST
COLLEGE VALUES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.**

**BUT I AM MOST PROUD THAT MARQUETTE IS
HELPING PRODUCE NEW LEADERS DEDICATED TO
PUBLIC SERVICE. IN RECENT YEARS, DEVOTING
YOURSELF TO A LIFE OF PUBLIC SERVICE HAS
GOTTEN A BAD NAME. THE LES ASPIN CENTER IS
HELPING CHANGE THAT PERCEPTION.**

**FOR EXAMPLE, A STUDENT WHO WENT THROUGH
THE PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON SAYS HIS
EXPERIENCE HELPED CHANGE HIS IMPRESSIONS
OF POLITICANS.**

**HE SAID HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE LES ASPIN
CENTER "COMPLETELY CHANGED MY VIEW THAT**

**POLITICANS ARE CROOKS. MOST ARE DEDICATED
WORKAHOLICS.”**

**MY HOPE IS THAT LES’S DREAM OF TRAINING MORE
YOUNG STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE WILL
CONTINUE TO GROW.**

**FORMER SENATOR WILLIAM BROCK OF
TENNESSEE ONCE SAID “SOLUTIONS AREN’T
GOING TO COME OUT OF WASHINGTON, BUT
LEADERSHIP CAN.”**

**I HOPE THAT THE WORK OF FATHER O’BRIEN AND
THE TEACHERS AT THE LES ASPIN CENTER
CONTINUES TO PRODUCE LEADERS WISCONSIN,
AND AMERICA, CAN BE PROUD OF.**

**THANK YOU FOR THIS AWARD. AND THANK YOU
FOR HELPING MAKE THE LES ASPIN CENTER A
REALITY.**