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### Richard "Don" Wellard Funeral Remarks

Jay L. Nelson

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FUNERAL  
RICHARD "DON" WELLARD  

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JANUARY 8, 1979

INTRODUCTION

THERE IS "A TIME TO WEEP ... A TIME TO MOURN ..." COUNSELED AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET, (ECC. 3:4) AND THE SAVIOR OF MANKIND, IN HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT, COMPASSIONATELY SAID: "BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED." (MATT. 5:4)

I SINCERELY PRAY THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL BE WITH US THROUGHOUT THIS HOUR AS WE PAUSE TO EXPRESS OUR LOVE AND DEVOTION FOR THE PRIVILEGE WHICH HAS BEEN OURS TO ASSOCIATE WITH OUR BROTHER, HUSBAND, TEACHER, FRIEND, AND COLLEAGUE - RICHARD "DON" WELLARD. WE HAVE ASSEMBLED TO REMINISCE, TO REVIEW THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AN HONORABLE SON OF OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN AND FINALLY TO WRITE THE CONCLUDING CHAPTER RELATIVE TO HIS EARTHLY ESTATE. I AM HONORED AND PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE MEMORIAL SERVICES AND TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WITH YOU.

RESUME OF EXPERIENCES

MY ASSOCIATION WITH RICHARD D. WELLARD, WHOM WE AFFECTIONATELY CALLED "DON" COMMENDED IN 1948. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RENTED THE OLD TROY LAUNDRY TO ESTABLISH A TRADE SCHOOL AS HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE 1947 LEGISLATURE. THE TRAINING WHICH HAD BEEN OFFERED AT WEST HIGH SCHOOL WAS TRANSFERRED TO UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THEN KNOWN AS SALT LAKE AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. PERHAPS THE CHOICEST THING RECEIVED IN THE TRANSFER WAS AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF DON WELLARD WHO WON HIS WAY INTO OUR HEARTS AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A GREAT TEACHER.

DURING THE 37 YEARS DON TAUGHT WELDING, HE ENDEARED HIMSELF TO HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS WHO WERE TAUGHT THE PRINCIPLES OF WELDING AND WHO SOON DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS A GREAT CRAFTSMAN. HE TAUGHT 26 YEARS AT U.T.C. AND 11 AT WEST HIGH SCHOOL. YES, DON WELLARD WAS REPUTED TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO FIX OR REPAIR

ANYTHING. NOT ONLY DID I OBSERVE STUDENTS COMING TO HIM FOR COUNSEL AND ADVICE, BUT ALSO A NUMBER OF HIS FELLOW TEACHERS CONSTANTLY RECEIVED SUGGESTIONS AND HELP FROM DON.

AFTER THE COLLEGE HAD WON IT'S WINGS, SO TO SPEAK, AND WAS GAINING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE, THE FIRST EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTORS WAS CONDUCTED. TWO INSTRUCTORS WERE SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AND THEIR ABILITY RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. DON WELLARD SHARED THE HONOR WITH HARRIET VIGEN. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT HE LIVED UP TO THAT TRIBUTE THROUGHOUT HIS TEACHING CAREER. HE EXEMPLIFIED THE TEACHER'S CREED, WHICH IS ...

THE MEDIOCRE TEACHER - TALKS  
THE GOOD TEACHER - EXPLAINS  
THE OUTSTANDING TEACHER - DEMONSTRATES  
THE GREAT TEACHER - INSPIRES.

ANOTHER TESTIMONIAL TO HIS GREATNESS IS EVIDENT FROM THE NUMBER OF STUDENT GRADUATES WHO RETURNED REGULARLY TO THE COLLEGE TO REPORT THEIR SUCCESSES AND SOLICIT HIS ADVICE. STUDENTS LOOKED UPON HIM AS THEIR IDEAL, AND MANY ELECTED TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEIR TEACHER. OF THE 12 TEACHERS ON THE WELDING FACULTY AT U.T.C. TODAY, AT LEAST 4 OF THEM ARE FORMER STUDENTS OF DON WELLARD. FOLLOWING GRADUATION THEY RECEIVED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRY AND THEN RETURNED TO THE COLLEGE AS INSTRUCTORS. THIS IS ANOTHER EVIDENCE TO ME THAT DON WELLARD WAS A GREAT TEACHER!

DON WAS HIGHLY REGARDED BY HIS COLLEAGUES, WHICH IS EVIDENCED BY THE TRIBUTE PREPARED IN HIS HONOR.

TRIBUTE TO DON WELLARD FROM THE FACULTY (JAMES J. CULLIGAN'S TRIBUTE)

"HE WAS A MAN WHO HAD MUCH TO SHARE WITH HIS FELLOWS AND HE SHARED IT UNSTINTINGLY, UNHESITATINGLY AND UNFAILINGLY."

"HE NOT ONLY HAD GREAT SKILL BUT HE HAD THE ABILITY TO TEACH IT TO OTHERS. HE HAD THE ABILITY TO BUILD THAT INITIALLY DELICATE BRIDGE OF COMMUNICATION AND THEN TO LEAD HIS STUDENTS ACROSS IT - TO DISCOVER THEIR OWN TALENTS AND DESIRES.

TO CAUSE THEM TO AIM HIGHER AND WORK HARDER, TO GIVE THEM HOPE - WHICH IS THAT NEEDED AMOUNT OF EFFORT WHICH TURNS DREAMS INTO REALITY."

"A COMMON THEME IN GREETING CARDS THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE "PRAYING HANDS," BUT IT SEEMS GOD MUST ALSO LOVE WORKING HANDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE WORKING HANDS BELONG TO A MAN LIKE DON WELLARD WHO USED THEM ALWAYS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL THOSE DEAR TO HIM AND TO THOSE WHOSE FUTURE DEPENDED UPON TRAINING THEIR OWN WORKING HANDS."

"SON OF GOD, YOU LABORED IN THE TRADE OF YOUR EARTHLY PARENT WITH HAMMER AND CHISEL. WELCOME INTO YOUR HEAVENLY MANSION A FELLOW WORKER AND TEACHER AND GRANT HIM THE REST AND JOY TO WHICH HIS YEARS OF LABOR AND LOVE HAVE ENTITLED HIM."

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A RESUME OF DON WELLARD'S LIFE WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT MENTION OF HIS MANY ADMIRABLE CHARACTER TRAITS. HE WAS A COMPOSED, MILD-MANNERED, COURTEOUS, POLITE, LOYAL, DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL. HE WAS SINCERE, METICULOUS, QUIET AND UNASSUMING, CONGENIAL AND LOVED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM. PATIENCE IS A GREAT VIRTUE AND DON HAD THAT ALSO. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDABLE INDIVIDUALS IT HAS EVER BEEN MY PLEASURE TO KNOW. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS STERLING INDIVIDUAL AND I AM GRATEFUL THAT HIS BEAMING COUNTENANCE IS RECORDED ON SLIDES AND IN MOTION PICTURES AT THE SCHOOL.

DON'S STUDENTS ALSO EXHIBITED GREAT LOVE FOR THE COLLEGE. SOMETIME AFTER THE COLLEGE MOVED TO THE REDWOOD ROAD CAMPUS, THE WELDING DEPARTMENT NOTED THE LACK OF IDENTIFICATION ON THE METALS BUILDING. THE STUDENTS REQUESTED PERMISSION, I'M SURE AT DON'S SUGGESTION, TO FABRICATE AND ERECT A MARKER THAT WOULD IDENTIFY THEIR WELDING CRAFT. THIS MARKER WAS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED UNDER DON'S DIRECTION. THE MARKER BEAUTIFULLY ACCOMPLISHED THAT OBJECTIVE AND WILL REMAIN A SYMBOL OF THEIR PRIDE IN THEIR INSTRUCTOR, THE COLLEGE AND THEIR DEPARTMENT.

PERHAPS THE GREATEST MONUMENT DON WELLARD LEAVES AT U.T.C. IS THE OUTSTANDING WELDING DEPARTMENT ON THE REDWOOD ROAD CAMPUS, IN WHICH HE PLAYED THE PRINCIPAL DESIGNING ROLE. I AM SURE HE WAS DREAMING ABOUT SUCH A DEPARTMENT DURING THE 18 YEARS THE COLLEGE WAS LOCATED AT 431 SOUTH 6TH EAST. EVEN SO, THE OLD DEPARTMENT WAS WELL ORGANIZED, BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED, AND EFFICIENTLY OPERATED. THE WELDING LABORATORY AT THE NEW CAMPUS IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, ONE OF THE FINEST, IF NOT THE BEST PLANNED, MOST EFFICIENT WELDING LABORATORY IN THE U.S. DURING MY TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF U.T.C. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AT LEAST 25 WELDING DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE TO EQUAL IT. NOT ONLY IS THE PHYSICAL PLANT GREAT, BUT THE CURRICULUM IS ALSO OUTSTANDING.

AT THE VIEWING LAST NIGHT A FORMER STUDENT SAID TO SISTER WELLARD --  
"EVERYTHING I HAVE - MY SKILL AND MY JOB I OWE TO DON WELLARD."

BROTHER WELLARD RETIRED IN THE SPRING OF 1974. HE ENJOYED HIS RETIREMENT; GOLF - TRAVEL - OUT OF DOORS. ALTHOUGH HE ONLY STARTED PLAYING GOLF AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT, HE WAS VERY PROFICIENT AT IT. ON A FEW OCCASSIONS I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GOLF WITH HIM AND HE USUALLY HAD THE BEST SCORE IN THE FOURSOME.

#### COMMENTS TO THE FAMILY

MAY I SAY TO THE FAMILY THAT I BRING YOU THE LOVE AND SYMPATHY OF DON'S INNUMERABLE FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT U.T.C. DON LEFT A GOOD NAME WHICH WILL BE RESPECTED THROUGH THE YEARS. I HAVE NEVER MET A MAN MORE WORTHY TO OCCUPY A PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM THAN RICHARD WELLARD. AS I HAVE SURVEYED THE PAST OF DON I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE GUIDING INFLUENCE WHICH HE HAS BEEN TO HIS FAMILY, STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES.

IN PROVERBS WE READ THAT "BACK OF EVERY GOOD MAN IS A GOOD WOMAN."  
SISTER WELLARD IS A SWEET DEVOTED WOMAN WHOM I KNOW DON LOVED AND ADMIRER.  
THEY HAVE SHARED EACH OTHER'S COMPANIONSHIP ADMIRABLE FOR MORE THAN 41 YEARS.

DON HAS BOWED IN HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO THE DIVINE WILL OF GOD. I PRAY  
THAT WHERE HE IS, WE MAY BE ALSO. THIS I SAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST -  
AMEN.