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### William A. Thiriot Funeral Remarks

Jay L. Nelson

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## FUNERAL

WILLIAM A. THIRIOT--DECEMBER 14, 1964

27th Ward Chapel, 12:30 p.m.

### INTRODUCTION

TODAY WE HAVE ASSEMBLED TO EXPRESS OUR LOVE AND DEVOTION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE HAD TO ASSOCIATE WITH OUR BROTHER, HUSBAND, FATHER, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND--WILLIAM A. THIRIOT. 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.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AT TRADE TECH

MY ASSOCIATION WITH WILLIAM A. THIRIOT, WHOM WE AFFECTIONATELY CALLED BILL, COMMENCED IN 1948. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RENTED THE OLD TROY LAUNDRY BUILDING TO ESTABLISH A TRADE SCHOOL AS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE 1947 LEGISLATURE. THE TRAINING WHICH HAD BEEN OFFERED AT WEST HIGH SCHOOL WAS TRANSFERRED TO TRADE TECH, THEN KNOWN AS SALT LAKE AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. PERHAPS THE CHOICEST THING RECEIVED IN THE TRANSFER WAS AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF BILL THIRIOT WHO WON HIS WAY INTO OUR HEARTS AND PROVED TO BE ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS,

AND ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED, QUIET, UNASSUMING, EFFICIENT INDIVIDUALS THAT I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

BILL WAS OUR EVENING SCHOOL REGISTRAR. HE HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER AND COLLECT FEES FROM MORE THAN 1800 STUDENTS EACH YEAR. AND IN ALL THE 15 YEARS WHICH HE CARRIED THIS RESPONSIBILITY OUR FISCAL DEPARTMENT ADVISED ME THAT THE ACCOUNTS BALANCED PERFECTLY EACH TIME HE MADE A DEPOSIT. RECONCILIATIONS, EVEN UNDER AUTOMATED CONDITIONS ARE SOMETIMES DIFFICULT. BILL DID IT MANUALLY WITH THE USE OF AN ADDING MACHINE JUST AS ACCURATELY AS IF IT WERE DONE BY AUTOMATION. YES, HE WAS A METICULOUS INDIVIDUAL.

REGISTRATION WASN'T HIS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY. HE CATALOGUED ALL OUR LIBRARY BOOKS AND OUR VISUAL AID MATERIALS. AS THE YEARS ROLLED BY AND WE CAME TO APPRECIATE HIS DILIGENCE AND CAPABILITIES, HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH ME IN DIRECTING THE SCHOOL'S MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. IN THIS RESPECT HE WAS THE SUPERVISOR OF THE CUSTODIAL STAFF AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDINGS. HE DID AN ADMIRAL<sup>able</sup> JOB. DURING THE SUMMER WHEN WE WEREN'T REGISTERING STUDENTS, BILL SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DIRECTING MAINTENANCE. HE WAS A MAN OF ACTION AND WHEN PREPARATIONS FOR SCHOOL DIDN'T PROCEED ON SCHEDULE IT WASN'T UNUSUAL TO SEE BILL WITH A PAINT BRUSH IN HAND OR UP ON A SCAFFOLD ASSISTING AND SHOWING THE WAY. HE WAS PAST 70 YEARS BEFORE WE

CONVINCED HIM THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION SHOULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANUAL WORK. BILL WAS AN INDUSTRIOUS INDIVIDUAL. AND IF THE PRESIDENT SAID LET'S DO IT--THE STATEMENT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE MADE TWICE. BILL NEVER FAILED TO CARRY OUT OBJECTIVES WHICH WERE ASSIGNED TO HIM.

YES, HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AT TRADE TECH WERE MANY AND VARIED, AND HE DID THEM ALL WELL.

#### CHARACTER TRAITS

NO RESUME' OF BILL THIRIOT'S LIFE WOULD 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 BILL THIRIOT HAD THAT ALSO. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDABLE INDIVIDUALS IT HAS EVER BEEN MY PLEASURE TO KNOW. YOU COULD SET YOUR WATCH BY NOTING THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL OR HIS DEPARTURE. 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.

#### TESTIMONIAL DINNER

BILL RETIRED AT THE AGE OF 74. WE WERE THRILLED THAT HE CONTINUED TO WORK LONG PAST HIS RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY. WE HAD THE FEELING WHEN HE DECIDED TO RETIRE THAT HE WAS DOING SO

BECAUSE HE BELIEVED HE COULD NO LONGER DO ALL THE THINGS EXPECTED OF HIM. AT THE TESTIMONIAL DINNER HELD IN HIS HONOR IN JUNE OF 1963 THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE WAS PAID TO HIM.

"WILLIAM A. "BILL" THIRIOT IS A MAN WHO HAS SERVED SALT LAKE TRADE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN SPLENDID FASHION SINCE THE SCHOOL'S VERY BEGINNING IN 1948.

A LIST OF THIS MAN'S VIRTUES WOULD BE A LENGTHY DOCUMENT INDEED, BUT IT MUST BE SAID HERE TONIGHT THAT TRADE TECH HAS PROFITED GREATLY FROM HIS LOYALTY, HIS CONGENIAL PERSONALITY, HIS CAPABILITY, HIS COMPOSURE AND HIS DEPENDABILITY.

THE WORD "DEPENDABILITY" SUGGESTS AN UNDERSTATEMENT IN BILL'S CASE. ON THE FEW OCCASIONS WHEN HE WAS UNABLE TO REPORT FOR HIS DUTIES AT TRADE TECH, WE ALL KNEW THAT THERE WAS SOME PERSONAL CRISIS INVOLVED. NOW THAT BILL IS LEAVING US, WE SUDDENLY SENSE THAT WE ARE INVOLVED IN A CRISIS. REPLACING A GOOD MAN IS A DIFFICULT CHORE. REPLACING BILL THIRIOT MAY WELL BORDER ON THE IMPOSSIBLE.

HIS QUIET ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT TRADE TECH REMIND ME OF THE PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER WHO MAKES THE DIFFICULT PLAY LOOK SIMPLE. THAT'S BECAUSE BILL THIRIOT IS A REAL PROFESSIONAL.

BILL, IT IS WITH PROFOUND REGRET THAT WE ARE BIDDING YOU FAREWELL. THE STAFF AND FACULTY JOIN WITH ME IN WISHING YOU AND MRS. THIRIOT ALL THE JOY THAT RETIREMENT CAN BRING.

THE TRIBUTE WAS CONCLUDED WITH: "THE YEARS HAVE WELDED A STRONG CHAIN OF AFFECTION BETWEEN TRADE TECH AND THE THIRIOTS, WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND ADMIRE THEM."

#### COMMENTS TO THE FAMILY

MAY I SAY TO THE FAMILY THAT I BRING YOU THE LOVE AND SYMPATHY OF BILL'S INNUMERABLE FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT TRADE TECH. BILL 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 WILLIAM A. THIRIOT. AS I HAVE SURVEYED THE PAST OF BROTHER THIRIOT I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE GUIDING INFLUENCE WHICH HE HAS BEEN TO HIS FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES.

IN JOSHUA WE READ THE SCRIPTURE--"CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE BUT AS FOR ME I WILL SERVE THE LORD." BILL DID SERVE THE LORD. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE 8TH QUORUM OF 70'S AND HELD THE OFFICE OF HIGH PRIEST AND ASSUMED MANY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIS CHURCH. IN THE DC, SECTION 42 WE LEARN THAT "DEATH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED BY THE LORD IS A GREAT AND BLESSED EXPERIENCE." I'M CONFIDENT BILL IS ENJOYING THAT EXPERIENCE. BILL OCCASIONALLY REMARKED TO ME THAT ONE OF HIS GREATEST CONCERNS WAS LIVING TO PROVIDE THE MEANS AND A HOME FOR HIS SON DICK. THE FAMILY WILL GAIN ASSURANCE AND CONSOLATION FROM OUR GOSPEL PLAN FOR WE BELIEVE THAT BILL HAS GONE AHEAD TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR HIS FAMILY FOR WHOM I KNOW HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE. BILL HAS

OPENED THE WAY TO THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE ETERNAL.

MANY TIMES DURING OUR ASSOCIATION BILL EXPRESSED TO ME HIS FONDNESS FOR HIS DAUGHTER LUELLA AND HER FAMILY. HE WAS PROUD OF LUELLA'S HUSBAND RICHARD AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HE DEARLY LOVED HIS THREE GRANDCHILDREN.

IN PROVERBS WE READ THAT "BACK OF EVERY GOOD MAN IS A GOOD WOMAN." SISTER THIRIOT IS A SWEET DEVOTED WOMAN WHOM I KNOW BILL LOVED AND ADMIRED. THEY HAVE SHARED EACH OTHER'S COMPANIONSHIP ADMIRABLY FOR MORE THAN 51 YEARS. THEY CELEBRATED THEIR 51ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LAST SEPTEMBER.

#### CONCLUSION

MAY THE LORD BLESS THE FAMILY TO RECOGNIZE, REMEMBER AND CHERISH THE NOBLE EXAMPLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THIS STERLING CHARACTER--WILLIAM A. THIRIOT--HAS MADE UPON THE INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM HE WORKED, WORSHIPPED AND LIVED. HE MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION UPON ALL OF US AT SALT LAKE TRADE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

BILL 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!