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Burton A. Talmage Memorial Service

Jay L. Nelson

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BURTON A. TALMAGE

IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR FOR ME TO SPEAK AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICES OF A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE BURTON A. TALMAGE.

MY ASSOCIATION WITH BURTON A. TALMAGE BEGAN IN 1959 WHEN HE WAS EMPLOYED TO MANAGE THE BOOKSTORE AT SALT LAKE AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. LATER THE WAREHOUSE OPERATION WAS ADDED TO THE LIST OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE WAS VERY ADEPT IN HIS BUSINESS PURSUITS--IN VIEW OF THIS HE WAS ALSO ASSIGNED MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COLLEGE CAFETERIA.

SOON AFTER BURT BECAME AFFILIATED WITH THE COLLEGE, SLAVS, HE CONTACTED POLIO AND LOST SOME OF THE USE OF HIS RIGHT ARM AND HAND. HE LEARNED TO WRITE WITH HIS LEFT HAND. UNLESS ONE KNEW OF THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT YOU WOULD NOT NOTICE THAT HIS RIGHT ARM AND HAND WAS SOMEWHAT INCAPACITATED.

HE MANAGED THOSE THREE DIVISIONS OF THE COLLEGE UNTIL 1967 WHEN HE WAS DESIGNATED AS THE COLLEGE BUSINESS MANAGER AND CHARGED WITH DIRECTING THE ENTIRE FISCAL OPERATION OF THE COLLEGE. HE PERFORMED ADMIRABLY IN THAT CAPACITY UNTIL 1982 WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO ESTABLISH A NEW AND CHALLENGING POSITION--VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT. IN A FEW SHORT YEARS HE SUCCEEDED IN FORMULATING A DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, SERVED AS A NATIONAL OFFICER FOR THE COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND RECENTLY CONCLUDED, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN OBTAINING A HALF MILLION DOLLARS WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE COLLEGE FOREVER.

ABOUT A DECADE AGO BURT STARTED IN PURSUIT OF A PHD. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO IT. HE MADE A CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE. HIS DEDICATION TO HIS FAMILY, HIS CHURCH AND THE COLLEGE SEEMED MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM AND HE CHANGED GOALS. HE CERTAINLY HAD THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN THE DEGREE.

WHEN UTC GAINED SUFFICIENT STATURE AND RECOGNITION TO JUSTIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF A VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS BURT WAS PROMOTED. I RECALL THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT GIVEN THE RECOMMENDATION WHEN HIS NAME WAS PRESENTED TO THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL.

IN ADDITION TO HIS PRIMARY FINANCIAL DUTIES HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE PLANNING AND IN OBTAINING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COLLEGE CENTER-- THE NAME USED IN LIEU OF STUDENT UNION BUILDING. IN FACT, BECAUSE OF HIS LONG TENURE AT THE COLLEGE AND THE SIGNIFICANT PART HE PLAYED IN OBTAINING AND PLANNING THE BUILDING IT WOULD APPROPRIATELY BE CALLED THE TALMAGE CENTER.

DURING MY AFFILIATION WITH UTC FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND MY ASSOCIATION WITH BURTON, I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT "NO ONE" AND I UNDERLINE NO ONE HAS MADE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UTC THAN BURTON A TALMAGE.

OUR YEARS OF ASSOCIATION AFFORDED MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CHAT ABOUT THE THINGS MOST IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT HIS FAMILY, HIS CHURCH AND HIS JOB ALWAYS WERE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST. WE COUNSELLED AND ADVISED EACH OTHER ON ENUMERABLE OCCASIONS. HE WAS UNUSUALLY DEDICATED TO HIS FAMILY, THE CHURCH AND HIS COMMUNITY. HE ALWAYS KEPT ME POSTED ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS CHILDREN. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THEM. RON, CAROLYN, DIANE, ANNETTE, YOUR FATHER EXPECTED YOU TO SERVE THE LORD AND STAND BY YOUR HIGH IDEALS.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Burton A. Talmage was a loyal, dedicated, faithful individual. He WAS HONORABLE, HAD HIGH IDEALS AND AN OBEDIENT SERVANT OF OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. HE WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL ORGANIZED--IN MANY RESPECTS HE WAS AN PERFECTIONIST. HE WAS UNUSUALLY CAPABLE AND VERY INTELLIGENT. HE WAS A GENTLEMAN AT ALL TIMES. ALTHOUGH HE WAS VERY DEMANDING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED UNDER HIS JURISDICTION, HE WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED AND FAIR. AND HE HAD A HEART AS BIG AS THE GREAT OUTDOORS. THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEST RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC AND COMPASSIONATE. HE MADE AN INDELLIBLE IMPRESSION ALL OF US WITH WHOM HE WORKED AND SERVED.

HE WAS AN INDIVIDUAL LARGE IN STATURE BUT A GIANT IN ABILITY AND REPUTATION. ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN AND SOMEWHAT RESERVED IN MOST SITUATIONS, HE WAS AT EASE WITH STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, GOVERNORS OR THOSE IN HIGHER ECHELONS.

A FEW WEEKS AGO THE COLLEGE HONORED HIM AT RECOGNITION CEREMONIES SALUTING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE COLLEGE FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. BURTON TALMAGE'S NAME LED ALL THE REST. HE WAS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.

TALMAGE

COLLEAGUES AT THE COLLEGE THOUGHT OF HIM AS A RATHER SERIOUS INDIVIDUAL AND VERY BUSINESS LIKE. BUT HE ALSO HAD A NICE SENSE OF HUMOR. MANY YEARS AGO WE ATTENDED THE AVA CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI. HE AND HARVEY HIRSCHI, A CLOSE FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE, ENTERTAINED US BY PRETENDING A SMALL DOG WAS FOLLOWING THEM MOST EVERYWHERE THEY WENT. AS THEY LEFT THEIR HOTEL ROOM, ONE WOULD BARK, THE OTHER WOULD ~~EXAMINE~~ MAKE EJACULATIONS SUCH AS WHERE IS THAT POODLE. I THOUGHT YOU PUT HIM IN THE ROOM. ANOTHER BARK AND THE OTHER WOULD COMMENT, WE'D BETTER GO BACK AND LOCK HIM IN THE ROOM. PEOPLE WOULD STOP AND LOOK ALL AROUND TO SEE THE DOG. AND THEN AS WE LEFT THE BUILDING WE'D ALL HAVE A GOOD LAUGHT.

SOMETIME FOLLOWING MY RETIREMENT FROM THE COLLEGE, THE BOARD OF REGENTS WERE SEARCHING FOR A NEW PRESIDENT. I ENCOURAGED BURTON TO APPLY. I DOUBT THAT HE EVEN GAVE IT SERIOUS THOUGHT. HE RESPONDED THAT HE BELIEVED HE COULD PERFORM BETTER IN A SUPPORT. AND THAT ROLE HE PLAYED ADMIRABLY DURING HIS TENURE AT UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF WHICH BURT DEVOTED A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF HIS LIFE.