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Carl E. Lee Service Remarks

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Carl E. Lee Service Remarks
Dr. John M. Dunn
3/14/15

Good morning. On behalf of the entire Western Michigan University community, I want to thank you for being here today. It is a sad occasion for us all, as we say goodbye to Carl E Lee, a wonderful friend who made an impact on literally every area he touched—and he touched so many parts of this community.

It is a sad occasion, but appropriately we are gathered here in a location of great joy and energy. We owe the very existence of this location to the vision and commitment of Carl Lee and his beloved wife, Winnie. Nearly 20 years ago, they learned that this University's family of honors students had need of a home. Those students needed an academic home and a place to gather that would be an anchor for their programs and a center for lively thought and discussion.

This wonderful building was Carl and Winnie's response to that need. It was opened in 1990, and just three years ago, we were able to expand it--thanks again to the generosity of Carl and Winnie. They always knew the importance of home, and they were determined that, in this case, a family of honors students--who made up what is now the Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College--would have a home that matched their needs.

Carl E Lee spent a lifetime making "home" a better place for all of us. There's not a corner of this community that was untouched by his presence as a broadcast professional, a civic leader, a member of the board of some storied organizations and, simply, as a friend. Our city is a better place because Carl Lee loved this town he called home for 75 years.

Linda and I will always cherish the memories of winter visits with Carl and Winnie

in Naples, Florida--one more place they called home. Carl's demeanor on those occasions could only be described as infectious. He so clearly loved where he was, and what he was doing, and he took delight in those around him. No one ever doubted that he was a man at home with the world.

Cheri, Jeff, Carl Lee and Tatiana, thank you for sharing your parents and grandparents with us on so many occasions. It was our privilege to call them part of the Western Michigan University family and we will miss them. But we know they are home together.

Oliver Wendall Holmes once famously said, "Where we love is home--home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts."

We know Carl E Lee's heart will always be here with us.

Thank you.