

I want to thank you all so much for being here today to honor the life of my father, Gregory Hyver. Your presence and your prayers are truly appreciated.

Will Rogers once said that a man learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by hanging out with smarter people. And I don't think it's any secret that my Dad was a very smart guy, and a brilliant engineer, and watching him attack challenges and solve technical problems of all kinds, definitely made me a smarter guy, too.

When I think back on all of the insights he shared, and the indispensable advice he gave me, probably none was more compelling than his frequent comment to me that, quote, "Ralph, it's not gonna get done by looking at it."

Now, I'm not an engineer, so I don't know if that's a technical expression that engineers use. But I do know that whenever Dad assigned my teenage self a task, like moving a pile of gravel from point A to point B, or chipping away a door opening in a solid concrete wall, or splitting a couple of cords of oak wood, for some reason he seemed to always circle back to remind me, as I was standing there leaning on my shovel, that the job "wasn't gonna get done by looking at it." I mean, dude, have you never heard of a rest break before?

You know, I think this uncompromising drive he had to accomplish things was grounded in Dad's desire to give to others the very things he never had himself when he was young, which was the care and protection many of us took for granted as children. Dad never actually had a home to call his own, to shelter and protect him, so at a very young age he set out across the world to find one.

Along the way he built things, many things, things that protected his family, his friends, and in fact, millions of strangers.

I don't think it's any coincidence, then, that he dedicated his career to protecting and defending the citizens of our country against enemy aggression, culminating in his contributions to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. And I also don't think it was any

surprise that among his many charitable acts, Dad donated literally gallons of his own blood to help strangers in need.

And perhaps nothing was more indicative of his desire to protect others than the many physical houses he built from the ground up, houses with massive foundations, that some would say were over-engineered, but which he built to stand the test of time so they would never fall down.

Yes, Dad was definitely a taskmaster – and it's true, you don't get things done by looking at them – but his heart was always in the right place, with the love for his family and friends and his willingness to extend a hand to a stranger in need.

I'd like to conclude with a verse from Gordon Lightfoot's song, "The House You Live In," in which Gordon says,

"Go first in the world, go forth with your fears
Remember a price must be paid
Be always too soon, be never too fast
At the time when all bets must be laid
Beware of the darkness, be kind to your children
Remember the woman who waits
And the house you live in will never fall down
If you pity the stranger who stands at your gate"

Dad, you built a lot of things in life, but the greatest thing you built, is the family who loves you. And please know that that love will live on forever, and that it will never fall down.

Thank you all again for being here today.