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UA3/9/5 Dr. John D. Minton Hall Dedication

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GOOD AFTERNOON. I WANT TO WELCOME EACH OF YOU TO CAMPUS ON THIS HOMECOMING EVE. THIS IS A SPECIAL TIME AT WESTERN, WHEN OUR STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND FACULTY, PRESENT AND FORMER, GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF WESTERN, AND TO REMinisCE ABOUT THE DAYS GONE BY WHEN THEY WERE ON THE HILL.

IT IS SO FITTING THAT TODAY WE ALSO GATHER TO NAME A BUILDING ON OUR CAMPUS FOR DR. JOHN D. MINTON, WHO SPENT 40 YEARS AT WESTERN. HE HAS BEEN A PART OF THIS CAMPUS SINCE THE DAYS WHEN ONLY 3,000 STUDENTS WERE HERE AND NEARLY ALL THEIR CLASSES WERE TAUGHT IN CHERRY HALL.
TODAY THERE ARE 17,800 STUDENTS ENROLLED AT WESTERN, AND CLASSES ARE TAUGHT NOT ONLY ON THE CAMPUS YOU SEE TODAY, BUT ALSO ON EXTENDED CAMPUS CENTERS IN OWENSBORO, ELIZABETHTOWN AND GLASGOW AS WELL AS ON THE INTERNET. WE’VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THOSE DAYS, AND DR. JOHN MINTON HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GETTING US HERE.

DR. MINTON IS JOINED TODAY BY HIS FAMILY AND MANY, MANY FRIENDS. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE HIS WIFE, BETTY, AND THEIR TWO SONS AND THEIR FAMILIES: DR. ERNIE MINTON, HIS WIFE TERESA AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN COLE, ZACHARY AND CHRISTINA (ERNIE IS A PROFESSOR AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY); AND WARREN CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN MINTON, HIS WIFE SUSAN AND THEIR CHILDREN PAIGE AND JOHN.
WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE EACH OF YOU HERE TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. MINTON.

OTHER GUESTS I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE ARE:

* MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD OF REGENTS: STAFF REGENT HOWARD BAILEY; KRISTEN BALE; ROBERT DEITLE, THE NEWLY ELECTED FACULTY REGENT; BOARD CHAIR LOIS GRAY, WHO WILL MAKE REMARKS TODAY; PROFESSOR MARY ELLEN MILLER, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED HER SERVICE AS THE FACULTY REGENT; LADONNA ROGERS; STUDENT REGENT JAMIE SEARS; JIM TENNILL; AND BEV WATHEN.
*MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION BOARD:
VINCE BERTA; STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN
BRADLEY; CHAIRMAN DAVID COLE, WHOM YOU WILL HEAR
FROM LATER IN THE PROGRAM; TAD DONNELLY; MIKE
HARRIS; BRUCE MERRICK; JIM MEYER; LARRY SHELTON;
KATIE WARD; AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN KUSTER.

* STATE SENATOR BRETT GUTHRIE; REPRESENTATIVE ROB
WILKEY; AND REPRESENTING HOUSE SPEAKER JODY
RICHARDS, MRS. NEVA RICHARDS.

*ALSO JOINING US TODAY IS DR. DERO DOWNING, WHOM DR.
MINTON SUCCEEDED AS PRESIDENT.
MOST OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW DR. MINTON WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT HE IS VERY ACTIVE IN THE METHODIST CHURCH. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON DR. RHODA PETERS, PROVOST FOR THE KENTUCKY CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FOR OUR INVOCATION. DR. PETERS IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE MINTON FAMILY, AND DR. PETERS, I KNOW THEY ARE GRATEFUL, AS ARE WE, THAT YOU COULD BE HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY. DR. PETERS, WELCOME.

2) INVOCATION -- DR. RHODA PETERS

3) REMARKS

PRESIDENT RANSDELL

IN HIS SWEARING-IN SPEECH, DR. JOHN MINTON REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS "JUST JOHN MINTON," INDICATING THAT PERHAPS HE VIEWED HIMSELF AS A SIMPLE MAN WHO TOOK WHAT LIFE DEALT HIM AND MADE IT WORK.
indeed, john minton's life began as a hard one. his parents died when he was very young and he was raised by his aunt and uncle in trigg county, kentucky. he worked his way through the university of kentucky delivering newspapers, and when world war two broke out, he altered his plans for his education to serve our country in the united states navy.

he eventually earned two degrees from the university of kentucky and a ph.d. from vanderbilt university.

he has been a high school teacher and principal, a history professor throughout his career at western, graduate dean, a vice president for student affairs, a vice president for administration and, course, western's fifth president.
Dr. Minton retired from Western University officially in 1986, but it wasn't until 1998 that he truly stopped working -- he left in the same capacity in which he came 40 years earlier -- as a history teacher. He loved teaching, and he was a great teacher. But he was also a mentor -- he was my mentor. You see, it was Dr. Minton who said to me in 1973...

"You really need to get a master's degree. You really need a graduate assistantship. You really need to work here in University Relations. You really need to get a doctorate."

"You really need to go up to Illinois. You really need to finish and get back here. You really need to get some experience at other universities." In 1997, after 18 years at other universities, he said, "You really need to come on back here."
SO YOU CAN SEE WHY, LAST SPRING, I WAS SO PERSONALLY PLEASED TO CALL DR. JOHN AND SAY, "WE REALLY NEED TO NAME THIS BUILDING FOR YOU."

THE BUILDING YOU SEE BEHIND US TODAY OPENED IN 1963. AT THAT TIME IT WAS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY, AND IT WAS REFERRED TO IN THE NEWS HEADLINES AS THE "SKYSCRAPER DORMITORY." THE GROUND ON WHICH IT STANDS HAD BEEN AT THAT TIME THE FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELD.

CENTRAL HALL, AS IT WAS EVENTUALLY NAMED, ORIGINALLY HOUSED 412 MEN AND COST ABOUT $1.3 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT. BEST OF ALL, IT WAS FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED. IN MAY OF NEXT YEAR, 40 YEARS AFTER CONSTRUCTION, THIS FACILITY WILL BE FULLY RENOVATED. AND IT WILL BEAR THE NAME OF A GREAT MAN, AND A GREAT FRIEND TO WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, DR. JOHN D. MINTON.
Both of them are also back in the valley.
WHEN I SPOKE TO DR. MINTON FOLLOWING THE BOARD ACTION TO NAME THIS BUILDING IN HIS HONOR, HE EXPRESSED ONE PARTICULAR THOUGHT WHICH I THINK REFLECTS HIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR THE MANY POSITIONS HE HAS HELD AT WESTERN. HE SAID, "OF ALL THE BUILDINGS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN SELECTED, THIS ONE IS MOST PLEASING TO ME BECAUSE IT IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF STUDENT CAMPUS ACTIVITIES. IT IS IN THE MAIN STREAM OF CAMPUS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHAT I ENJOYED MOST IN MY WORK."

DR. JOHN, I AM SO PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LIFE AND TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE MEANT TO WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, THIS COMMUNITY, THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AND TO ME PERSONALLY. THANK YOU.
AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO ASK LOIS GRAY, CHAIR OF OUR BOARD OF REGENTS, TO COME FORWARD AND MAKE REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD.

LOIS W. GRAY

ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS I WANT TO WELCOME THE MINTON FAMILY AND ALL OF YOU AS WE HONOR DR. JOHN D. MINTON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AS A PROFESSOR, AN ADMINISTRATOR AND AS WESTERN’S FIFTH PRESIDENT.

DOWN THE HILL JUST A BIT IS ZACHARIAS HALL AND MEREDITH HALL. TODAY WE WILL OFFICIALLY RENAME CENTRAL HALL, MINTON HALL.

DR. MINTON, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN PERSONALLY ALL BUT TWO OF WESTERN’S PRESIDENTS THROUGHOUT YOUR 40 YEARS AT WESTERN, AND THAT THEY ARE AND WERE YOUR FRIENDS. LET ME SAY THAT YOU KEEP GOOD COMPANY! WESTERN HAS A PROUD HERITAGE, AND THE BOARD IS PLEASED TODAY TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS BUILDING AND TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR MARK ON THIS CAMPUS IS NEVER FORGOTTEN.

IT IS CLEAR TO ALL OF US THAT THE WESTERN SPIRIT DWELLS DEEP WITHIN YOU, AND I HOPE THAT IN SOME SMALL WAY OUR EFFORTS TO HONOR YOU TODAY SHOW YOU THAT WE APPRECIATE YOU AND ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO CHART THE COURSE FOR THOSE THAT FOLLOWED YOU. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO WESTERN AND TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.
PRESIDENT RANSDELL

THANK YOU, LOIS. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON WKU HISTORIAN AND RETIRED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, DR. LOWELL HARRISON FOR SOME REMARKS. DR. HARRISON...

DR. LOWELL HARRISON

DR. RANSDELL

THANK YOU, LOWELL. YOU, TOO, HAVE GIVEN MUCH TO WESTERN, AND WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING WITH US TODAY TO HONOR YOUR FELLOW HISTORIAN, DR. JOHN MINTON.

THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION NOW OWNS ALL BUT ONE OF WESTERN'S RESIDENCE HALLS AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RENOVATIONS YOU SEE AROUND YOU TODAY.
IT WAS ALSO THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION THAT CENTRAL HALL BE RENAMED IN HONOR OF DR. MINTON. THAT RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCEPTED BY OUR BOARD OF REGENTS ON MAY 31, 2002.

JOINING US TODAY IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION, JOHN DAVID COLE. IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT DAVID COLE WAS CHAIRMAN OF WESTERN'S BOARD OF REGENTS DURING THE TIME WHEN DR. MINTON WAS NAMED PRESIDENT. AT THAT TIME, DAVID, I BELIEVE THE BOARD WAS DEALING WITH DECREASING ENROLLMENT -- CERTAINLY NOT A PROBLEM WE HAVE TODAY.

I GIVE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES WITH THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR THAT. OF ALL THE REASONS I HEAR FROM STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE WESTERN, THE ONE I HEAR MOST OFTEN IS THE QUALITY OF LIFE AT WESTERN -- SPECIFICALLY THE QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE --
AND THAT IS CERTAINLY ENHANCED BY THE RENOVATIONS COMPLETED AND UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT OUR RESIDENCE HALLS. DAVID, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP 20 YEARS AGO AND NOW.

(TO THE AUDIENCE) PLEASE WELCOME DAVID COLE.

JOHN DAVID COLE

**DAVID WILL PRESENT DR. MINTON WITH A RESOLUTION FROM THE STUDENT LIFE FOUNDATION; WHILE MR. COLE AND DR. MINTON ARE AT THE PODIUM, MR. COLE WILL CALL PRESIDENT RANSDELL BACK TO THE PODIUM TO PRESENT THE PLAQUE.

4) PRESENTATIONS

PRESIDENT RANSDELL (& DAVID COLE)

DR. JOHN, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOU TO HAVE THIS PLAQUE WHICH IS A REPLICA OF THE ONE THAT IS HANGING INSIDE THE LOBBY OF MINTON HALL. IT READS:
“MINTON HALL IS NAMED FOR DR. JOHN D. MINTON, WHO SERVED AS WESTERN’S FIFTH PRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 8, 1979, TO AUGUST 1, 1979.

ORIGINALLY NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. DERO DOWNING, WESTERN’S BOARD OF REGENTS LATER VOTED TO CHANGE HIS TITLE TO PRESIDENT.

DR. MINTON’S CAREER AT WESTERN SPANNED 28 YEARS. BEFORE RETIRING IN 1986 HE SERVED FOR 16 YEARS AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS. HE WAS A FACULTY MEMBER IN WESTERN’S HISTORY DEPARTMENT AND ALSO SERVED AS THE GRADUATE DEAN DURING HIS TENURE. BORN IN TRIGG COUNTY, KENTUCKY, IN 1921, DR. MINTON RECEIVED BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND HIS DOCTORATE FROM VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY. HE ALSO SERVED IN THE U.S. NAVY DURING WORLD WAR II.”
PRESENT PLAQUE, DAVID COLE AND DR. MINTON TO BE SEATED; PRESIDENT RANSDELL REMAIN AT THE PODIUM)

PRESIDENT RANSDELL

AT THIS TIME I BELIEVE WE HAVE A SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF MINTON HALL.

PLEASE WELCOME THE DIRECTOR OF MINTON HALL, JEANNE LADY, AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAM SANKOVICH.

(EVERYONE TO BE SEATED; PRESIDENT RANSDELL TO COME FORWARD)

5) UNVEILING
PRESIDENT RANSDELL

AT THIS TIME I INVITE ALL OF YOU TO STAND AND DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE BUILDING AS WE UNVEIL THE NEW SIGN DESIGNATING THIS MINTON HALL.

(CALL ON DR. MINTON TO MAKE REMARKS)

6) REMARKS

DR. JOHN D. MINTON

PRESIDENT RANSDELL

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY. I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THE RECEPTION UNDER THE TENnant BEHIND YOU (OR IN CASE OF RAIN, WE WILL BE IN DUC ON THE THIRD FLOOR). I KNOW THE MINTON FAMILY WOULD ENJOY VISITING WITH EACH OF YOU.
JULIE AND I ALSO INVITE YOU TO STAY AROUND AND ENJOY THE HOMECOMING PARADE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 5:30, AND THEN GO OVER TO THE WACHOVIA SECURITIES STREETFEST ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF THE GUTHRIE TOWER. IT PROMISES TO BE A FUNFILLED EVENING!

ALSO, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PARKED IN THE KENTUCKY BUILDING LOT, THE SHUTTLE WILL RUN FROM NORMAL DRIVE JUST IN FRONT OF NORTHEAST HALL UNTIL 6:00.

ADJOURN