Good evening.

The instructions I received from Frank Dawe were to keep my remarks "light."

Think about that. People are always saying that -- "light" or "light & easy." What does that mean? Well, let's see --- rummaging around in the synonym bag I could certainly make my remarks weightless or rather, uplifting. Or, they could be wafting...bouyant...even levitational...or gossamer.

But I don't think Frank wants me to give "The Gossamer Talk of the Year."

So what, then?

Well, how 'bout ...gentle...soft...stratospheric or even ethereal.

No? Maybe he meant frothy...frivolous...superfluous...feather-headed...barmy-brained. Now, that I can do.
So let's see .......

"Resting in her billowy down-filled balloon of delight, she wafted into the clouds, frivolously sipping a frothy mug of Bud Light."

How's that, Frank?

Seriously, I'm delighted to be here tonight and be part of this celebration honoring some very special people. Some of them couldn't be here. Actually, I'm amazed at the rapidity with which people latch on to this long vacation bit. And those who aren't here have sent greetings and best wishes to all of you.

As a group, the retirees we're saluting this evening have a combined 440 years of service to Control Data. That's an average tenure of approximately 26 years, or nearly as long as CDC has been around.

It's no exaggeration to say that among the retirees are men who have helped shape the computer industry.

It also can be said that tonight's honorees represent a great diversity of both vocation and avocation.
Development, finance, education, systems, services, sales and marketing pretty much covers the vocation spectrum doesn't it?

And then consider personal interests -- boating, fishing, camping, golf, tennis, poker, antique collecting and cars.

What the retirees DO have in common is a commitment to excellence that was matched only by their dedicated service to Control Data.

It's this dedication of mind, body and spirit that has contributed so much to the Control Data legacy, and probably could sum up my message tonight by simply saying: You'll be missed.

that I thought we might do though is take a moment or two to look back at some memorable events in Control Data's history. To keep things on the light side, we need a vehicle, so to speak -- and what could be better than my wife's 1965 Buick Gran Sport convertible --- to travel with on this tour.

Some of you may be wondering what CDC and Mary's Buick have in common.

A lot, really. In fact, they probably have more in common now than ever.
The Buick, after once being disassembled and then rebuilt, is in good shape and running like new. The car even won an award last summer -- first place in the street-stock class at the Cruzer Car Show in Bricelyn, Minnesota. That's a pretty good comeback for the Buick.

Likewise you might say that in the recent restructuring we disassembled and rebuilt CDC. And it is absolutely our intent to win the "stock class" on the "street."

But let's go back. In the summer of 1965 when the Buick came to live at our house, Control Data was already eight years old and had grown from 0 to $161M in revenues.

By then Control Data was already attracting international notice by shipping the world's first supercomputer -- the CDC 6600. But success and attention also brought competitive notice and some hard knocks were about to fall and by the next year a loss would be reported.

Meanwhile, the Buick also sustained its first dents. Norb Berg greeted the car's arrival at CDC's annual Gull Lake planning meeting by leaping onto the hood and leaving two perfect knee prints. The dents remained until the car was restored 15 years later.
But I'm getting ahead of myself.

In 1968, we announced the world's then-most powerful computer -- the CDC 7600. Commercial Credit was acquired, the antitrust suit against IBM was filed, and we experienced a quantum leap in the number of employees to 37,000.

The Buick? Well, it was taking leaps of a different sort as it began the arduous task of helping the first of three daughters learn to drive. It was to show great strength and resilience over the next nine years.

The early 70's were years of great change, some pain and certainly strategic maturing as "services" became a part of the corporate lexicon and OEM peripherals began its first stage of dramatic growth.

By 1973, the Company's combined revenues topped $1.5 billion. The suit against IBM was settled and SBC brought critical mass to the Services Group. That was likewise the year when a strategic reassessment of the systems business laid down the 10 year plan that gave us today's Cyber product line. Another more quixotic quest, as it turned out, began that year when we signed a 10-year agreement with Russia for broad cooperation in the field of computer technology.
A year later, in 1974, as the Buick headed off to Iowa State University with my middle daughter Mary, CDC suffered heavy losses as "ALS" and "UBS" became synonyms for technical risk and financial grief. But the Company rebounded in 1976 to surpass $2 billion in revenues. At the same time, we introduced PLATO computer-based education and began deliveries of CYBER 170 systems -- the first step in the systems plan for the future.

The years 1979 and 1980 marked milestones for both CDC and the Buick.

CDC posted earnings in 1979 of $207 million on revenues of $3.2 billion and then broke these records the next year with $260 million earnings on revenues of $3.8 billion. In 1980, we also introduced the CYBER 205 supercomputer and the "Staywell" physical fitness program for employees that has earned the Company wide recognition.

By contrast, the Buick wasn't doing so well. After four difficult years at Iowa State and more than 140,000 miles, the car badly needed a little body work.

It so happened that in 1979 Control Data became involved in a project to help ex-convicts that included a body shop.
You guessed it. The Buick wound up in the body shop. It was taken apart piece by piece and remained there for more than a year.

During this period of time, the ex-con working on the car hooked up with some old friends and, well, let's just say he became unavailable to my project. Finally, CDC's Bob Smiejia took over the project and, after considerable effort, the Buick was restored to perfect condition. In fact, contrary to instructions he even removed Norb Berg's knee prints from the hood of the car.

But I'm still reminded of the many miles it has traveled and how its past is so entwined with CDC and the careers of many of you in this room.

Like the Buick, you've achieved longevity. Even more importantly, though, you've achieved excellence and, in the process, made history.

As much as your contributions will be missed, they will be remembered. And they will serve as a challenge to others now following in your footsteps.
Now, I would like June Langer to join me for a presentation I want to make to the wives of the retirees. June...

(PAUSE TO ALLOW JUNE LANGER TO JOIN YOU)

Any tribute like this would be incomplete without acknowledging the support and encouragement you and the other wives have provided your husbands over the years.

June, Dicks's successes are also your successes. The same can be said of the other wives you represent. All of us at Control Data are grateful to each of you ladies for your many contributions.

As a token of our appreciation, we're presenting you and the others with a gift [hand gift to June; she opens] a pendant shaped like an eagle. There's a diamond on the eagle's wing. Thank you, June.

I know that in separating from the CDC "nest" that our honorees will, as the saying goes, "soar on wings like eagles" and will shine like diamonds.
To each of you, let me say that as you point your "wings" toward new horizons, you can be assured that each of us in Control Data is committed to the goal of getting the entire company to soar like an eagle.

Thank you for showing the way.

(..... CHAMPAGNE TOAST TO THE LADIES .....)

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