

**AWARD RECEPTION SPEECH  
FOR THE**

**1993 ROBERT G. DICUS AWARD**

**PRIVATE PRACTICE SECTION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 1993**

Thanks to Al.

It is with pleasure and pride that we are here with you this evening to honor Bob Doctor and to accept, in his behalf, this most prestigious award.

I know if Bob were here, he would say that to be so recognized by you, his friends and respected colleagues, is truly the culmination of all of his professional endeavors.

Patti and I are here in tandem this evening for several reasons: not the least of which is moral support in what for us is a highly emotional evening in a most challenging year for our family. But, perhaps more importantly, we stand together as a symbolic statement of the integrated way in which Bob lived his personal and professional life.

In his final years, as Bob realized his life long dream of having his own physical therapy practice, Therex truly became a family business. The principles that he steadfastly adhered to in his relationships with family members guided the building of his company. With total sincerity, Therex employees were family. And... Bob was "Big Daddy".

After his death, it was the strength of those integrated relationships that held us together as a company and as a family. To be especially recognized are the efforts of the Therex executive management team, (Christy Archer, Lynette Miller, Mike Keirns, and Patti Doctor), as well as the RCI executive management team (Ben Johnston, Jim Berg nad Jim New), who under the most adverse circumstances have worked diligently to preserve the integrity of the company.

We are here representing the integration of those things Bob held most dear...his family, his colleagues and his profession. This evening we would like to share with you a collage of personal attributes depicting Bob, the man. Who he was, and how he made a difference.

So...Here's to you, Bob!

Bob was born, the eldest of three children, to Ruth Marie and Dudley Chalmers Doctor,...loving, devoted parents who through their example and guidance clearly laid the foundation for those attributes most distinguishable in Bob's character. A character rich in depth and diversity.

He was progressive...futuristic... a calculated visionary...a man who saw the big picture and was annoyed by the burden of tedious detail that slowed his progress. He was a competitive, entrepreneurial, successful man, yet he remained humble and dedicated to the well being of others.

Devoid of selfishness or jealousy, Bob was always willing to give advice and to share his wisdom. But the greatest lessons were those taught through his actions and the manner in which he conducted his own life.

Bob came from a family of doers,  
who valued humor and play. He  
was proud of his Scottish roots.  
And the family's propensity for  
merth and merriment was instinctual.  
He was a fun-loving character, who  
relished and embellished a good  
story...who took great delight in  
instigating or in being the brunt  
of office shenanagans...

Bob always envisioned himself as the Marlboro man, riding majestically amongst the steers, but being a good business man instead found himself as the proud owner of a herd of dairy cows. In his honor, Christy Archer and her sophisticated staff donned their Holstein apparel. Being moo-ved by their gesture, Bob richly rewarded them with a lunch of all-you-can-eat sprouts at the local Black Angus restaurant.

**Bob was a fun-loving entertainer,  
but he was also a philosopher,  
a man of wisdom, intelligence  
and depth.**

Over the years, many of you have  
been privy to Bob's saws...or what  
we call "Bobisms"...He always had  
the perfect saying for every situation.  
My personal favorite, and one which  
symbolizes my upbringing is...  
"Prepare the child for the path...  
not the path for the child"



**Bob was a man of power and strength, but one with a soft heart. He was easily moved by acts of love, the personal triumph of others, and that which was beautiful.**

**Bob loved nature. And actually entered his freshman year as a Forestry major. His field of study changed, but never his appreciation for the beauty of animals and nature.**

Bob was Santa...  
12 months a year...  
generous to a fault,...  
but it brought him joy.

From the beginning, and in all ways, Bob was a leader. Whether it was captain of the football team, student body president, fraternity president, or Therex president. He rarely did anything without taking on a leadership role. His leadership style resembled that of a gardener. It gave him great pleasure to prepare the soil, to plant seeds of every type and variety, to provide a nutritive-rich environment and then... to stand back and watch his garden grow and grow and grow beyond anyone's wildest imagination. People flourished in Bob's environment.... and were able to take themselves as high and as far as their dreams could allow.

He was a disciplined man, a voracious reader, a constant learner. I always maintained that a flaw in his character was his refusal to read fiction. The answer was simple. He was a man drawn towards a goal, his destiny and there was so little time to do it.

Bob focused on the positive. He had a knack for making killer lemonade out of the lemons in life.

He was a man of principle and honor. His personal and professional ethics were impeccable. Any and every professional decision was dissected. The key questions always were: Does this make sound business sense? How will this impact patient care? How will this impact my staff? How will this impact the profession of PT?

Family was paramount to Bob...  
but he especially cherished the  
kids! At any get together, a  
search for Bob always started  
and ended with finding the kids.  
He would have them all gathered,  
excited, and entertained with his  
collection of games and tricks.

**Magic Sack was a favorite amongst all...kids and adults alike. Upon Bob's death, each of his six grandchildren decorated a special magic sack to send with him. And one granddaughter, Erin, offered some condolence to our grief. She innocently asked, "Why is everyone so sad? Grandpa is just up in heaven teaching the angels how to ski!" I firmly believe that he is also stretching hamstrings!**

**A spirited interest in athletics that would form the basis of Bob's career in sports rehabilitation, developed at an early age and remained a major focus throughout his life. In high school, he was named to the All-State team in football, which paved the way for a football scholarship to Utah State University.**

**As an adult Bob's love of sports was perpetuated in recreational skiing and golf, teaching his kids and grandkids, support of fitness events, and as an avid fan. Bob's dedication to fitness and to serving others led him to serve as commisioner on the Aurora Youth League and as a member of the Colorado Govenor's Council of Physical Fitness.**



**Most recently, through the skillful engineering of Mike Keirns, Bob and ringer won the Colorado PT Games Golf Tournament. With a grin as broad as the all outdoors, Bob announced "I can now die happy...I've seen the Buffs beat Nebraska and I've won the Golf Tournament."**

Academically, Bob started his career with a bachelor's degree in physical education. Bob and I were married while still students at Utah State. Immediately following graduation, we packed all of our worldly possessions in the back of our '55 Chevy and headed to Stanford, where Bob entered the certificate program in physical therapy. Those were productive years. Bob emerged from the program a "for real" PT, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and as a father to our first child, Patti. (Did she have a choice but to become a PT?!? I think it was laundering formaldehyde-saturated lab coats while I was pregnant that cast the dye.)

By nature, Bob was a private practitioner from the onset. Plans to join a private practice following his 2 year military obligation, however, were pre-empted by a bout of viral myocarditis and the untimely occurrence of the Berlin Crisis. Now as a father of three, prudence would ultimately dictate a 20 year career in the medical specialists corp. Those of you who knew Bob well might question how this independent, strong-willed, creative individual functioned in the highly-structured environment of the U.S. Army. There were moments, when Bob's creativity was not always cherished. But... basically he was always a patriotic lad. And, ultimately, he not only functioned and endured in this environment, but also excelled.

He volunteered for a tour in Viet Nam. But instead, was selected for the Army-Baylor master's degree program in hospital administration. He was assigned to the Surgeon General's office, where he did facility planning for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. For his work, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

This was followed by selection to the Command and General Staff College as the first ever MEDDAC to attend. At the time of his discharge with the rank of LTC, he was awarded the Legion of Merit medal with the following citations:

LTC Doctor, in his position as Chief of Physical Therapy, has demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership that I have personally witnessed in my military career....I know no finer physical therapist in the military today.

LTC Doctor has demonstrated in all respects those qualities that make him an outstanding member of the Army Health Care Team. He is overwhelmingly innovative and aggressive in his approach to physical therapy delivery. He represents the most outstanding physical therapist that this officer has had the pleasure of serving with.

This "overwhelmingly innovative and aggressive approach" didn't terminate with the issuance of his discharge papers from the Army. . He hit the ground running and immediately opened his first clinic. Private practice was still novel at that time. Therex was one of three in the Denver Metro area. Not content to maintain status quo, he spawned the concept of physical therapy within the wellness environment of athletic clubs. He also brought physical therapy to convenient, neighborhood storefront locations. These moves were not without risks, however. Bob heavily weighed the potential risks to Therex and to the profession of physical therapy. He questioned the impact on the image of the profession. And now, these novel concepts have been embraced by both the public and the profession. However, Bob realized that it was up to him, as a professional, to uphold the image and that it was the person not the location that set the image.

Innovation and community service permeated every aspect of his business. Not only does Therex annually sponsor local research awards, but also the Thered series of continuing education courses are housed at the University of Colorado Physical Therapy School. This arrangement allows for combining the talents of local specialists with the University staff and provides for financial support to the curriculum from the private sector.

The National PT games, which now we all know as a fun and successful fund-raiser, stemmed from Bob's desire to generate funds for the state's direct access efforts and to promote comraderie amongst the PT community.

Bob unselfishly utilized his talents and resources to give back to the profession, to elevate the status of the profession within the medical community, and to promote the PT community at large.

Today there is but an echo of his spirit, his energy and his drive, but his message lives on in the hearts of his family and those fortunate enough to share in his dreams.

Bob has been an energetic, prolific, and prominent contributor to the physical therapy profession for 33 years. He made a difference. During that time, he saw the profession change drastically, with increased responsibility, autonomy, and academic foundation. Bob was excited by change, and seized these opportunities to plant new seeds and to cultivate their growth. If Bob were here today, he would encourage and impel us to remain positive, to become a student of the changing environment, to creatively devise unique solutions to common barriers, and to maximize veiled opportunities.

Toast.

Acknowledge Bob, PPS, Dicus Award Nominating Committee, Al Amato, Peter Towne.