

Bill Macey Memorial Presentation

Friday, October 20, 2017

Dr. Stephen Wells

Good evening and thank you all for being here this afternoon.

We are all here to memorialize a man who is very likely the most generous, most prominent, and perhaps the most accomplished of all New Mexico Tech graduates.

It is of course a sad occasion to talk about a great man who is no longer with us. But considering that Bill Macey was always a joyous and gregarious sort man, I hope that we can all celebrate and remember Bill with smiles and laughter.

We're keeping the formal part of today's presentation rather short ... so we can all enjoy the perfect weather and each other's company.

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I feel rather unfortunate that I didn't have the chance to get to know Bill Macey like most of you here today.

But it didn't take long for me to grasp the impact that Bill had on New Mexico Tech and our campus.

Bill will always be remembered because we have the Macey Center, the Macey Family Children's Center, and the Macey Scholars program.

But what I think will be his lasting legacy is the impact of his personality on everyone he met. Louise has great stories about Bill's dedication and personal interest in NMT ... and I've heard stories like that from countless people.

Everyone has Bill Macey stories – because Bill Macey always had stories to tell. And Bill always had a smile and a laugh. Bill loved New Mexico Tech, just as he loved life. He loved his alma mater, he loved his career, he loved the people he worked with, and he loved his family.

Bill never stopped moving. He always wanted to experience something new. He was very successful in his career and his business ventures. He travelled the world and loved exploring. But he always came back to Socorro. This special place in the middle of the desert offered the teenage Bill Macey a place to learn and grow and thrive. Bill never forgot where he got his start and he returned the favor a million-fold.

That's just the sort of man Bill Macey was. We are all lucky to have had the opportunity to know Bill and we are all lucky to have great memories of him.

Visitors to Socorro often ask me what the 'M' stands for on 'M' Mountain. Perhaps, I'll start telling people it stands for Macey Mountain.

We have put together a special gift for Cheryl Macey, a commemorative picture book that compiles memories of Bill throughout the years. Cheryl, I'd like to present you this token of our appreciation and our esteem.

I encourage you all to take a look at the book.

Thank you all for being here. I hope you all stick around for hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Those of you who have more stories about Bill, now is your chance to share your tales.