

Good evening ladies and gentleman, honoured guests. It's my absolute delight and truly an honour to have been asked to speak on behalf of my friend Rick Parent.

On a personal level my husband - Ian and I have shared many great times with Rick & Terry over the years. Rick and Ian are very much adventurers. Some adventures have gone well and some well.....it's probably best to give you an example.

A few years back Rick and Ian walked the West Coast Trail. At the end of the first day Ian slipped 120 feet down a cliff and landed on rock. Luckily Rick was there to throw him a rope...and he managed to do it before the tide came in. The good news of course....Ian recovered – they were actually able to finish the walk and our friendship with Rick & Terry has really taken on a WHOLE DIFFERENT level of commitment as a result. You see according to our family's culture – when you save a life you are taking on responsibility...and let's just say

...Rick is now responsible for Ian FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

But seriously...this is a good deal for Ian and I...we now have much more disposable income. So next year...Rick and Ian will sail around Vancouver Island.

Ian and I have had many conversations about safety and I have given Ian STRICT INSTRUCTIONS...NOT TO SCREW UP OUR PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

I note that tonight the theme is Leading – the Way and I guess you could call me (albeit self-professed) somewhat of an expert on the WAY that is Rick. When I think of the Way that is Rick I think of a person of strong values & traits. And I believe I can speak first hand to some of those that would have led – in part - to Rick being chosen for this incredible honour.

On commitment and loyalty we have heard earlier of the accomplishments and servitude that is Rick. Our industry is lucky to have Rick as a champion for our causes, our challenges and as a steward upholding our ethics and securing our reputation.

On a personal level Rick is to his family as he is to our industry. To his beautiful and loving wife Terry he knows the true meaning of happiness – and in fact for those of you that may not know - he does have a saying. One - which I add - I think ALL husbands and partners should adopt – it goes like this...“Happy Wife...Happy Life!” Rick does a great job of achieving balance and keeping in perspective those things that are truly important in life.

Yes....Life ...it's a journey and one that is not always smooth. It's during these times that Rick's true nature shines – never allowing difficult times to define him - he finds and focuses on what it takes to continually move forward. Rick understands what it means to be present and accountable, to love unconditionally and to support – no matter what. Rick takes an active and supportive role in the lives of all those he meets and in his community.

In fact, he has been suspended in the air, gambled away the mortgage at Monopoly madness, walked more than 60 km in day, spent time in the dunk tank...and in a tuxedo yet, he has shaved his head, been held for bail and joined a toy riding motorcycle gang more often than anyone else I know and all in the name of charity. Yet he still manages to find time to go to his grandkids jazz, tap and ballet dance recitals, Sunday morning pageants and he seldom misses his weekly walks around Elk Lake with Shakespeare (our dog).

But for me the one thing that stands out above all others is his understanding and embodiment of the value of TRUST. It is his understanding of the importance of TRUTH...in all that he does. It's about his TRUST in himself and his ability to INSTILL TRUST in others.

For me ...these are the values & character traits that are the Way of Rick. And I think the words of John C Maxwell defined leading the way perfectly when he said....A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.

So Rick...thank you for leading the way. Thank you for your contributions to our industry, to the community in which we live and for being my friend.

Congratulations on your achievement of Insurance Person of the Year.

And to the Salute 2008 committee – you have chosen wisely.