



Memorial Service for William C. Norris

Friday August 25, 2006

Schulze School of Entrepreneurship
University of St. Thomas
Minneapolis, MN

Navy Hymn

Opening Remarks

Michael Moore

Director of William C. Norris

Institute

Opening Prayer

Father Dennis Dease

President of the University of St.

Thomas

“The Desolate Wilderness”

Connie Van Hoven

Daughter

“Letter from Dad”

Mary Keck

Daughter

Video Selections

Words from Bill

Eulogy

Norbert Berg

Retired Vice Chairman

Control Data Corporation

Closing Comments

Michael Moore

Photo Selections

The Norris family wishes to thank the Reverend John Jakway, Father Dennis Dease, Michael Moore, Joanna Nute and Norbert Berg for their help in making this event a memorable one.

William C. Norris

July 14, 1911-August 21, 2006

William C. Norris was the founder and chairman emeritus of Control Data Corporation. He founded the company in 1957 and retired as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in 1986. From 1988 through 2000 he chaired the non-profit William C. Norris Institute, which supported initiatives to:

- improve K-12 and higher education through development and implementation of technology;
- stimulate technical training in Russia; and
- create good jobs by supporting technology-based small companies in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

In 2001 Mr. Norris and the board of the William C. Norris Institute transferred it to the College of Business at the University of St. Thomas, with a beginning endowment of \$2.3 million. The institute's mission is to support the commercialization of innovative, socially beneficial technologies by Minnesota entrepreneurs.

Born July 14, 1911 with his twin sister Willa (who passed away July 22, 2006) in Red Cloud, Nebraska, William Charles Norris grew up on his parents' farm, which his grandfather homesteaded in 1872. Bill attended a one-room country school, where physics became his favorite subject. He was fascinated with the new field of electronics and built a mail-order radio set, becoming an avid ham radio operator. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1932 with a degree in electrical engineering. His first job with Westinghouse Corporation was followed by five years of service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he became involved in electronic equipment that was the forerunner of today's computers.

Mr. Norris became an entrepreneur after service in World War II, when he started Engineering Research Associates, Inc. (ERA), in St. Paul, Minnesota. ERA pioneered the development of the digital computer and in 1951 merged with Sperry Rand Corporation. Mr. Norris headed the Univac Division of Sperry Rand through mid-1957, when he and other engineers left to start Control Data Corporation.

Under his leadership, Control Data pioneered large-scale scientific and engineering computers, computer services, and the utilization of technology in education. Its PLATO computer-based education and training program was the world's major pioneering effort in applying computer technology in education. Mr. Norris also pursued new business opportunities by working with the public and non-profit sectors to address major social problems such

as unemployment, blighted inner cities, and declining rural economies. Small business incubators and Job Creation Networks supported by Control Data across the country led to more than 1,000 new companies and 13,000 jobs. And Control Data assisted its own employees to develop and spin off more than 80 technology-based new companies.

During his 29 years as CEO of Control Data, Mr. Norris led many collaborative initiatives involving government, universities, and business and industry. For example, in 1983 he conceived and initiated the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation, which is based in Austin, Texas and currently has more than 60 members and associate members that collaborate on research and development among themselves and with government laboratories and universities.

In Minnesota, Mr. Norris helped organize and lead the Northwest Growth Fund, Minnesota Seed Capital Fund, Minnesota Cooperation Office, Minnesota Wellspring, and the Greater Minnesota Corporation (now Minnesota Technology, Inc.), and with Control Data's help he established the William C. Norris Institute. All of these initiatives supported entrepreneurship and sought to improve Minnesota's economy by assisting small companies in creating jobs.

In 1986, Mr. Norris was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Reagan, who cited him for "*substantial contributions to the development of digital computer technology, leading to the founding of a successful computer and computer services company, and for his innovative application of computers to societal needs, as well as his initiation of cooperative efforts which promise to maintain U.S. competitiveness in microelectronics and computer technology.*"

Mr. Norris also is a recipient of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' Founders Medal, and of the National Business Incubation Association Founders Award. In 1995 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Minnesota High Technology Council. In 2001 he received a lifetime achievement Tekne Award from the Minnesota High Technology Association and Minnesota Technology Inc. Most recently, in 2005 he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding contributions to the United States.