

Funeral of Robert L'Ecuyer
Remarks of Richard Ray
September 24, 2025

I am very grateful today for the opportunity to express these thoughts about my friend, L'Ecuyer. I am sure that many of you here today could add other great comments to my remarks to fully bring to our memories the stature and influence of this great man.

Today I would like to speak primarily to you fine individuals, who are the members of Bob L'Ecuyer's family. What a blessing you have enjoyed.

One of the blessings that came into my life, along with the blessing of knowing Bob L'Ecuyer, was the blessing of getting to know Anne L'Ecuyer. I can't imagine a more caring and kind individual than her. I am sure that many of you in the family have these same great tendencies, it is just that Anne is the one I have been privileged to get to know.

I am also so grateful that circumstances allowed me to have more than just a casual relationship with Bob. For several months it was the privilege of my wife, Ann, and I to pick up Bob to drive to Sunday meetings together. Even though these "to and from" trips were not lengthy, we did have time to get well acquainted, and I came to fully realize what a fine and unique person I was coming to know. Let me express to you some of the great lessons that I learned from Bob L'Ecuyer.

The **first** I would mention was his natural modesty. Bob obviously had the blessing of a very keen mind, but he also had the maturity and restraint not to be constantly flaunting it before others. Bob was truly a gentleman with a strong emphasis on gentle.

I knew from other sources the significant role that Bob had played in the government of Arizona and the many friends he was involved with here. Bob was happy to comment on issues that he had been involved with over the years and people that he had known, but there was never an element of Bob speaking of his own significant skills in making good things happen. Just a quiet reflection on his satisfaction in seeing good people and good programs come to fruition.

A **second** attribute. One of our favorite Christian hymns is entitled, Nay, Speak No Ill. The words say, "Nay speak no ill, a kindly word can never leave a sting behind. Be earnest in the search for good, and speak of all the best we can." Bob exemplified this noble trait in every way. In a family structure slightly more complex than some, I have absolutely no recollection of Bob ever saying anything negative, in any degree, about any individual. Bob was uniformly complimentary. Bob radiated great pride in you, his

children and others in the family, and spoke frequently of the enjoyment he had in being together with all of you.

Next, I would speak of Bob's attitude about the physical limitations that became such a significant part of his life during these recent times. Not only did Bob not complain, on the contrary, he did all in his power to live with these limitations and to make the best of any situation he found himself in. He really enjoyed seeing his friends at Church and at City of Tempe gatherings, and especially at family gatherings. It became increasingly difficult for him to get into a vehicle and to get out of that vehicle to attend gatherings, but did any of us ever hear a word of self pity or of anger with the situation? I certainly never did, and I strongly suspect that it is the same with each of you.

For me, the opportunity to see these examples of pure goodness each week was a great blessing in my life. I have heard another good friend of mine, a protestant minister, give a great sermon which he entitled "Growing Old Disgracefully" where he spoke of observing individuals whose natural tendencies turned more and more unwholesome and negative as they aged. These comments would never, never apply to Bob L'Ecuyer.

All of you who have a family relationship with this great man recognize the things that I have spoken of and can, like me, feel appreciation for Bob's outstanding examples. The example of modesty, the example of never speaking ill of others, and the example of not complaining in the face of significant limitations.

Bob belonged to a Church that teaches clearly and powerfully, that this life, this short period of mortality, is not the totality of existence. Bob, and each of us here will live on after we pass through the curtain of leaving this world. Bob's church teaches that not only will we live on as individuals, but that the family relationships that mean so much in this mortality can continue and develop even to much greater depths throughout additional eternities. I would hope that this thought would help to bring comfort during these difficult days.

In closing, two quotations from others that I believe to be words inspired of God.

The first from Victor Hugo. He wrote, "When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, I have finished my day's work, but I cannot say, I have finished my life. My day's work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley, it is a thoroughfare. It closes in the twilight to open with the dawn."

And lastly, from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians as recorded in the King James translation of the bible. After teaching about the eternity of life, Paul stated, "O Death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?"

I am grateful for these comforting words, and I hope that they bring comfort to each of you. I say this in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.