



"DINNER OF CHAMPIONS"

"Dinner of Champions" Award
Acceptance Speech

by

LEWIS HORNE

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Champions

The older I get, the more I truly treasure the 'moments' in life. 'Snapshots' of life that you'll hold absolutely forever.

This. Right now, *right now*, is one of them.

One thing I know. You're *all* up here with me giving this speech and we are all receiving this honor together.

What I'm looking at is a room full of family.

So many from my real estate family at CBRE. My colleagues that are clients, consultants and companies I work with... Our good competitors. My friends for the city and the country of LA and Orange.

The doctors and nurses at USC with the life of my daughter in their hands.

Dearest friends from college days.

And I'm looking at my mom – Lisa's mom and the wonderful Wilson family.

And my children.

And I know Lewis is here in this room right now.

You came for MS. You came for Lisa. You came for Christina. And you came for me.

The gift of your time – and your treasure will *never* be forgotten.



As I've gone through my journey, I'm realizing we have roles. And how we behave in those roles to the people we touch in our lives... defines us.

In our family, I've got one role. I'm the compass. Not the map – just the compass.

My role is to set the direction. To set the tone of how we 'govern' our lives.

Understanding where true north is and always moving in that direction -- whether its business, with your friends, whether it's your family. It's a constant that we all aspire for.

My wife Lisa's role? She's our family's *soul*.

The most beautiful thing in the world to me – is watching my wife be with our children.

She listens. She respects them. She comforts them when they hurt – and she's always, *always* there for them.

Whether it was the tragedy we had in our lives with Lewis, or the challenges we've faced with Christina's diagnosis, your heart – and your love – are what binds us all together.

Lisa, I may be the compass, but you're the map. Never, ever, ever giving up hope on the smallest of issues.

And about Christina.

As a dad, at the end of the day, you really just hope that your actions, more than your words, are a teacher in your kids' lives. It's the other way around with Christina.

The way she has dealt with Lewis' death – and with the challenges with MS... I'm not teaching her -- she's teaching *me*.



She's taken the compass and the map – and put them together. Every one of her decisions has been good. With a maturity, and a wisdom, and a will that is unimaginable to me at 25.

MS is not a cross for her to bear, it's not just something that she's dealing with, but rather something she's accepted as part of her journey. MS doesn't define her. It's something that makes her *stronger*.

Three years ago when we were in her hospital room – getting the word from the doctors that it was likely MS... There was a big event with her sorority sisters that weekend – and she was dealing with if she was up to going, if she was going to tell them anything...

The next morning Lisa woke me up with Christina's post on Facebook – “There is a 90% chance I have MS, but 100% chance I'll be at the weekender in San Francisco!”

That's Christina. That's a role model in my life.

I was in the room here, alone, for a moment before the cocktail party. And I was looking up at the Endeavor. Thinking about where it had been.

I got right under it, and what struck me was -- it wasn't perfect. You could see how it was a never-ending work in progress. It had been on 25 missions, and with each one, they adjusted. They evolved. They *dreamed*.

With wisdom. With leadership. With a vision and a will to make a difference in how we experience and understand the mysteries of life.

All of us in this room tonight – share these aspirations.

Your treasures, that so surpassed anyone's possible expectations – will be the fuel to MS's rocket ship. Our doctors are our Neil Armstrongs of medicine.

You power their relentless desire to uncover the mysteries of the mind and the body – and I believe we are *very* close to a cure.

On behalf of my wife, my daughter Laura, son-in-law Rick, Kimberly, and my daughter Christina, that you so kindly celebrate tonight -- may we all know, in the very near future, that we made a *difference*.

That we did something good.

Thank you and God bless every one of you.



