



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate

It is my honor and privilege today to say a few words in memory of **Everett Cataldo** who passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly last November 18th. How do you remember a dear friend and professional colleague who meant so much to you personally and to your career?

1. My first memory goes back to a panel we were on at an annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. At the time he was chairing the Political Science Department at Cleveland State, and I was a visiting associate professor at the University of Georgia. At the panel, he impressed me with his intellectual brilliance, his command of the urban literature, the scientific quality of his research, the authoritative way in which he spoke, and his personal warmth and charisma. Afterwards we talked and decided to hook up with our families in Georgetown and have dinner. There Karen and I met his lovely family, his wife Gail and daughters Claudia and Venessa, who at the time were teen-agers. If it weren't for that fortuitous meeting, where he sold me on the university and Cleveland, I probably would not be here today.

2. However, it was only after I joined the department that I came to realize what a great professional colleague and friend I had found. He had the vision to research some of the most important issues of his generation and the research skills to publish his findings in all of the leading journals.

a. Ev received his Bachelors from Holy Cross College, his Masters from Boston College, and his Ph. D. from Ohio State University. As a doctoral candidate at Ohio State, he was awarded a prestigious congressional fellowship by the American Political Science Association.

b. After receiving his doctorate, he was hired as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo where he also directed their Survey Research Center. From there he accepted posts as associate professor at Cleveland State and then Florida Atlantic University where he also directed the Institute of Behavioral Research.

In 1976 he was hired as a full professor to chair our Political Science Department. Up until he retired, he was one of our most popular professors with students. He was also active in faculty affairs and played a key role in recruiting Mike Schwartz to serve as president of the university. Mike is probably our most beloved and respected president. Like Mike, Ev was nice and respectful to everyone but feared no one.

c. As a political science professor, Ev's teaching and research interests were intellectually broad and interdisciplinary. They ranged from the presidency and congress to Canadian politics, environmental policy, and the politics of school desegregation



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d. Reflecting the high professional standards he set for himself, his research has appeared in all of the leading journals including the American Political Science Review, the #1 journal in our discipline.

3. Over the years, my wife Karen and I have also come to know Ev as a devoted husband and father who loved his family above all else. We also have many fond memories of getting together with the Cataldos for dinner, going to Blossom, enjoying Italian opera, shopping at the West Side Market, celebrating our children's Christenings, sharing pictures of our family vacations out West, and enjoying each other's company.

a. Ev also took a lot of pride and satisfaction in taking his grand kids on European vacations to Italy and showing them where his family came from.

b. What I will probably never forget is how he and Ron Busch volunteered to help me paint our home because we were too house poor to afford a professional painter. It was a hot summer day, we were applying a heavy oil base paint, and perspiring profusely. So we did our best to keep ourselves well hydrated. Fortunately, Karen kept us all well fed with hamburgers, brats, cookies, and K-bars. I still can't believe we painted over two-thirds of a two-story colonial house with a two-car attached garage by the end of the day.

4. Ev was also someone who took his Christian faith and beliefs seriously and lived them.

a. When he was diagnosed with throat cancer, he said that with the help of the good Lord and his oncologists, he was going to beat it. And with intense doses of radiation and chemotherapy, he did. Afterward, he never whimpered or complained that with the loss of his salivary glands, it was much more difficult to eat Italian food.

b. And throughout his life, he was always reaching out to others including strangers he had never met.

c. One cold winter night when he was a student at Holy Cross, he took in a homeless man who was shivering outside his dorm window.

d. When Ev taught at Florida Atlantic University, he and Gail were active in helping the African-American community in Boca Raton improve their living conditions and quality of life.

e. When the State Department was looking for volunteer sponsors to resettle Laotian refugees, Ev and Gail generously adopted one family and took them into their home.

f. I notice from Ev's obituary in the Plain Dealer that family members have requested that all memorial contributions be sent to the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Montana.

g. And so his legacy lives on.

5. Above all, Ev was a man who loved life and all those who came into his life, and lived each day to its fullest. Like the ancient mariner in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic poem, we are all sojourners here on earth. And we must always be mindful, as Ev was, that our days are numbered and that we will ultimately be measured and judged not just by what we accomplish in life but also how we treat all those around us: This is perhaps why Coleridge concludes his timeless

classic with this comforting truth: “He prayeth best who loveth best all things both great and small. But the Lord God who made us. He made and loveth all.”. This is the life that Ev lived. This is the life to which we can all aspire.

✎ Written by Professor Joel Lieske and delivered to Faculty Senate on February 5, 2020