

## Remarks by Tom Corcoran

### At the Induction of Marci & Jack Williams into the Waterville Valley Hall of Fame – April 5, 2013

When Jack heard that Marci and he had been selected for induction into the Waterville Valley Hall of Fame, Jack suggested that I introduce the two of them. What a mistake! But, I'll do my best.

First let me tell you about Marci who is Jack's left and right hand. Jack has so much curiosity, and so many interests and hobbies, as well as causes that they both support, that Marci's main job is to keep him focused, which she does well. Before Marci and Jack moved to Boston in the mid-70s, many moons ago, Marci was the Marketing Director for the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, a senior position in a major hotel property. She was also a contributor to Newsweek and regional periodicals.

But the job we know her for took root when Jack became a news anchor at WBZ-TV 4 in Boston. Their marriage is a true partnership. She has Jack's back, as they say today; or, to mix a few metaphors, she is the guardian at the gate and the power behind the throne. And Jack is always quick to give her lots of credit for his success.

I'm reminded of Hans and Margret Rey, the creators of the Curious George series of children's books. Hans did the drawings, and Margret did the story lines and wrote the words. They were Waterville Valley residents with a home and studio here where they did much of their creative work together.

Sometime after Hans passed away, I asked Margret how the two of them had made decisions. She said, "It was easy. Hans made the big decisions and I made the little ones!" So I asked her for an example of a big decision that Hans had made. She thought about it and said with a straight face, "There were no big decisions." Marci may have a lot in common with Margret Rey.

Now I'll turn to Jack, the man with the distinctively sonorous, baritone voice who has long been the most popular TV newscaster in Boston, but there is a lot more to Jack than being a superb newscaster with a huge following.

Jack was born and raised in Pocatello, Idaho, the son of a railroad engineer who drove trains for the Union Pacific. Jack worked his way through the University of Oregon, receiving a degree in print journalism and a Phi Beta Kappa key for an outstanding academic record. In 2005, he was inducted into the University of Oregon Journalism Hall of Achievement. He is an

officer on the National Board of Phi Beta Kappa Fellows, which is made up of not more than 300 Phi Beta Kappa graduates who have exemplified Phi Beta Kappa's ideals in their lives.

Jack created Wednesday's Child in 1981 and it soon became a national model, promoted by the Health & Human Services Department under the Reagan administration. Eventually over 100 TV stations around the country replicated the format used at WBZ. As the originator of Wednesday's Child, Jack was honored in the White House twice, once by President Reagan in the Rose Garden and once by President Clinton in the East Room of the White House. He has received eight honorary doctorates from colleges and universities in New England.

In 1984, the first ski race for Wednesday's Child was held at Waterville Valley, and was repeated annually for 29 years. With the help of major sponsors like Wendy's, Volvo, and Yankee Magazine, the ski race raised about \$8 million in total for special needs adoptions. Only volunteers were used and no salaries paid.

In 2000, they created the Jack and Marci Williams Endowment for Wednesday's Child to better control the dissemination of funds. They operate out of their home, take no salaries, and have never used paid employees. The endowment fund now has over \$4.5 million in it to ensure continued funding to group homes and key agencies for years to come.

Every year Marci and Jack give over \$430,000 in grants to help find homes for special needs children.

During the past nine months, Jack has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New England Television News Directors Association and been inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In November, Jack was named the Massachusetts Broadcaster of the Year, and in that same month he was given the Yankee Quill Award from New England Newspaper Editors.

Marci and Jack started coming to Waterville Valley in the winter of 1975 and have been here every winter since. They were home owners in the Valley for 15 years starting in 1986.

Daphne and I have been privileged to know Marci and Jack for over 30 years now. Jack is a very good skier and a former member of the National Ski Patrol.

We can recall many Saturdays and Sundays in winters past when Daphne and I would pick-up Jack in the early morning hours, go up to the mountain, and take some runs together just as the lifts opened. The ski runs had been groomed during the prior night and the snow surface was perfect. Those mornings skiing together with Jack comprise some of our fondest skiing memories.

We also took three trips together to ski in the Swiss Alps, as well as Aspen and Vail on other occasions. And many times we sailed with Marci and Jack along the Maine coast in our sailboat named "Snow Dance," and we played many golf courses together.

We miss the laughs and good times we had together when our lives were more intertwined. I'm very appreciative that Jack asked me to introduce Marci and Jack here.

I'd also like to thank Jack for all the help he gave us in getting Waterville Valley to be a household name in Boston. He certainly helped us grow. Any person who watched the evening news regularly on WBZ would have concluded after a while that WBZ owned Waterville Valley or Waterville Valley owned WBZ. All because of Jack's many associations with the Valley and the support he gave us, the Wednesday's Child Ski Race and all the TV ads we ran on WBZ. Our ski area competitors were very envious! They all wanted a friend in high places like Jack!