



Personal Statement

"I wasted so much time", a statement made by Leonardo De Vinci on his dying bed.

"What possible purpose could there be to continue living without yet another unfilled task to solve?"
A statement made by Albert Einstein on his dying bed.

What do you take from statements as these from such accomplished genius? I think of the implications every single day of my life and have adopted the mindset that if this was the last year of my life what would I want to achieve. What would I want to be said about me at my funeral? Would it be a reference to material accumulation? Would it be notable achievements in sports? No, I would rather be known for what I contributed and gave to help others. What did I do to make a difference in the minds of others and what did I do to deserve consideration by the higher power? Philosophically rhetorical but nevertheless a mandate that we must all address within the internal dialogue of one's own consciousness and significance.

Martin Luther King was not the only person allowed to dream. I have dreams too and dreams are what keep us immortal. In fact, it is said that "Go stop dreaming is to start dying", and to paraphrase Walt Disney; "We may all fulfill our dreams if we have the courage to pursue them". This is the one thing that will never hold me back;

courage, courage to try, courage to endure, courage to persevere. This is the quality that is not readily attained in a time of remarkable scientific and technological achievement, and ubiquitous scrutiny. It would be very easy to sit on the sideline and let the smart people figure it all out. Perhaps therein lays the problem with most people; the fear of failure or the fear of condemnation. What is condemnation other than an opinion? Let me reference Einstein again and his opinion of condemnation. Einstein stated it as "Great inspirations have always met violent opposition from mediocre minds". These critics are the people that seek justification of their own personal significance. In that fleeting moment they feel significant because they are the center of attention, albeit in such negative manner.

What is failure? Is it an endpoint? No, failure is merely an education as to what didn't work; just as was the case with Thomas Edison. Edison is known to have discovered over six thousand ways 'not' to make a working light bulb. For nearly two years he searched for a filament for his

incandescent illumination invention and finally plucked a wool thread from his friend's jacket and found it to conduct electrons and glow for nearly 100 minutes and then found a bamboo filament to last 52 days. The other nearly six thousand materials Edison tried all burned up in seconds. So perseverance prevailed and the material strand lit up the infamous New York City block.

Basking in praise, Edison soon discovered that there were repercussions of such electron emission from the filament inside his light bulb. This process eventually caused a black film deposit on the inside of the bulb which dimmed the illumination. Edison countered the black film deposit by placing a positive charged metal plate inside the vacuum bulb chamber which stopped undesired electron emission. This discovery of the "Edison Effect" eventually led to the entire field of electronics since the vacuum tube now existed. Armstrong used the vacuum tube to amplify radio signals and established commercial radio. This vacuum tube allowed for a new invention called

television and the discovery of electron flow gave us the telephone.

In the 1950's Litton Industries built a vacuum chamber in attempt to further improve the vacuum tube and invented the exoskeleton rolling convolute arm chamber suit. This precursor to the modern space suit has allowed us to travel outside a space shuttle and put a pair of glasses on a distorted telescope lens and thus correct the optics of the Hubble telescope and now we see into the farthest depths of our known universe. Thus is an example of how Invention drives Industry, thus is an example of failure not being an endpoint, and thus is an example of perseverance.

One may extrapolate that invention is a derivation of the courage to pursue, the commitment to endeavor, and the endurance of scrutiny. Such is the journey for the character of the inventor. Brilliant minds secluded for years at a time with an amazing capacity to concentrate on the task at hand, dedicating entire lifetimes to their work and often ridiculed as pariahs. I have a

great admiration for these individuals and at the same time feel they were often wrong in regard to their methodology. Not wrong in their solutions but wrong in the fact that so much more could have been achieved in a less selfish forum.

My desire is fulfillment in life; a desire that occupies nearly my entire day; a desire to achieve and accomplish, and a desire to constantly redefine and set new goals, a desire to seek mastery of self-character and a desire to learn. Gnostic in the belief that one is free to pursue knowledge but humble in the direction in which to apply it.

Recently I completed a grand mission; 30 years of Emergency Medicine; a mission that I vowed to fulfill, one that I can reflect on in a proud manner and one that I honored the commitment without hesitation. This fulfillment brings me to another chapter in my journey and yet another time to redefine and set new goals. This is a wonderful time for me for I may pursue my innate drive to create, to invent, to explore and most important to me, a chance to give back in ways that I have been able to realize. I want to build science centers,

I want to build sports complexes and I want to explore the depths of benevolence. I want to create a World Class Company that is known for its integrity and charitable nature. I want to make my children proud of their father and in doing so propagate immortality. William Buckley once quoted that the two most important days in one's life is the day you are born and the day you figure out why. I know these days and I know my missions yet to be fulfilled.

I have designed my train to seat many and have constructed a worthy path. I welcome those with similar convictions, direction and courage; I welcome those with the perseverance to weather our storms calmly and those who desire to be remembered for the good done for others.

Dennis J. Morris, M.D.