10-30-1996

Remarks, delivered at the memorial service of Dan Dillingham on October 30, 1996

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DAN DILLINGHAM MEMORIAL SERVICE

Arend D. Lubbers Remarks

October 30, 1996, 3:00 p.m.

I saw Dan the day before he left for Washington. He walked past my office nearly every day. Sometimes we met on the sidewalk and we exchanged greetings. Often I saw him pass by as I looked out my office window. This year we were in the same orbit.

It was appropriate that he accompany John to Washington where his friend and colleague received an award. His final activity was one connected to a friend. Friendship, I believe, was a defining aspect of Dan’s life. At least I am aware that Dan had close friends on this campus, friends that shared entertainment with him, but more than that, shared feelings and thoughts that revealed each to the other. These were binding experiences. In a conversation with Jerrod, he talked about losing a best friend when Dan left us. I too, lost one of my best friends over a year ago. Jerrod and I felt cheated; cheated because one comes to count on the exchange with a close friend. It gives emotional and
intellectual sustenance. Dan was the kind of person who could enter into that kind of exchange.

Dan was all Grand Valley. His undergraduate, his graduate, and his teaching was a Grand Valley experience. He worked quietly and proficiently. He gave value, and those who received from him knew it. In his life that was too short, he helped in his place to create a University where people do their jobs well and deal with one another in respectful, generous ways. I will always see him as one of the foundation buildings. All of us here in the first 35 years of institutional life are foundation builders. Dan did his share in the time allotted to him.