

3-1-2005

## Memorial Speech for Barry Castro, delivered in March 2005

Arend D. Lubbers  
*Grand Valley State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential\\_speeches](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches)



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

---

### ScholarWorks Citation

Lubbers, Arend D., "Memorial Speech for Barry Castro, delivered in March 2005" (2005). *Presidential Speeches*. 238.

[https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential\\_speeches/238](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/238)

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presidential Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

## THOUGHTS ABOUT BARRY CASTRO

SPRING 2005

Barry Castro leaves admirable legacies. They are all special, but in the spirit of George Orwell's Animal Farm, where all animals are equal, but some more equal than others, one of Barry's is more special than others. His spirit was almost tangible. It reached out and touched you with kindness, inclusiveness, and good will. When you were with him there was never a reason to be "on guard." The personal emanations were positive, never negative. Problems always had the possibility of solution. To observe Barry in action was to see a human spirit at a high level of development and engagement. It was his unique gift.

His interest in how organizations were set up and managed and his high moral character led naturally to his involvement in the ethics of business. He found many people in business open to the examination of sound ethical practices and he stimulated and helped them. He prepared students at the Seidman College of Business to understand that there was an ethical dimension to almost all the decisions they would make in business. He took the level of ethical understanding in the practice of commerce and manufacturing in west Michigan to a new and more intense level – a special legacy.

When Barry came to William James College, Grand Valley was still finding its way. He, as a member of the Faculty, participated in and lived through some wrenching decisions, enough to have left a residue of mistrust and bitter rivalry within the University. But Grand Valley has emerged as a University with more trust than mistrust, sound academic programs unencumbered with bitter rivalries, and a campus ethos envied by many from other places who discover us. The major reasons for these fortuitous developments are a cadre of mature faculty members who were people of good will with the ability to share a common vision for the University. They were trustworthy themselves. Barry was one of them. He was a builder of our University's foundation, a special legacy he shares with other special builders. Coming from another place with a different culture, he joined life in west Michigan and contributed to the infusion of a culture into the University and its students he came to serve. We pay our respects to this colleague who leaves us too soon. We who worked with him will be joined to him always in the bond of building a special University. He was uniquely qualified in spirit and intellect for the task.

Arend D. Lubbers, President Emeritus

Grand Valley State University