

8-26-2016

Remarks for Holton-Hooker Living and Learning Center, delivered on August 26, 2016

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches



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

ScholarWorks Citation

Lubbers, Arend D., "Remarks for Holton-Hooker Living and Learning Center, delivered on August 26, 2016" (2016). *Presidential Speeches*. 306.

https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/306

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.

Remarks for Holton-Hooker Living and Learning Center Dedication
August 26, 2016

By
President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers

The English have a name for people like the Holtons and the Hookers. They call them worthies. They would likely be referred to as Sir and Lady, but that is not in our lexicon. A worthy is a person who does good things for community, institutions, and nation over a considerable period of time. To be a worthy, one assumes a positive spirit. Life can always be made better. Obstacles can be overcome. Individuals can be helped to a better place in their lives. Worthies are respected by their families because to them, they demonstrate their greatest love and show how caring is made manifest. Worthies are a model for life.

This building is named for them today by our university for all they have accomplished in our West Michigan community. In all their doing, they have not neglected Grand Valley. All four, Judy and Bob, Donnalee and Earl, have served on our Board of Control during times of significant advancement, and some turmoil. Their positive force I mentioned was invaluable in solving problems and moving forward. None of them avoid serious issues. That is part of their collective wisdom. They leave no problem to fester.

This is the second building bearing the Holton name hyphenated with another. The first is the Holton-Lemmon Center on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids. All this symbolizes the seeds of goodness planted over the years in many gardens of progress. To my knowledge, this is a first for the Hookers. As I review the buildings constructed in the Grand Rapids area over the past forty years, I know some depended on completion for the commitment and work of the Hookers. They could claim some of those buildings.

Both are generous in their philanthropy, and Grand Valley has been a beneficiary. But this learning and living center is named not for their philanthropy, but for their service, services to Grand Valley as trustees and to the greater community. It is appropriate that we dedicate a place where students live and learn, where hopefully, there will be many who take from this place and this university the values and determination, and will make them worthy citizens of their communities as are the bearers of the names given to this building.

I have known Judy and Bob and Donnalee and Earl for more than forty years, watching them, working on occasion with them, socializing, seeing their accomplishments, being favored by their presence, and I am reminded of a proverb, "a man's gift makes room for him." We should amend that with "a woman's gift makes room for her." There is a lot of sense to that. We make room for ourselves amongst our fellow citizens by giving to the greater good. I have watched the Holtons and Hookers room amongst us expand. Nothing is more fitting that their names adorn a building of rooms for students as those students seek to become worthy women and men by finding here at Grand Valley the tools to make room for themselves in society.

To have two family names joined in identification of this building symbolizes and shows the connectivity of philanthropy and good works in our community. Here, people and families work together. They share, they compare, they exhort, they pressure, they trade off, they take common

pride as they do their good work. Grand Valley benefits from the ethos that is created. Today, the University is expressing gratitude to four players in this ethos creating, and rightly so. They have been like building blocks in the foundation of this fine university, the blocks will be around for a long time.