

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT BUSINESS HALL OF FAME
Hartford, Connecticut
March 30, 2005
As Delivered

Thank you very much. It is indeed an honor to be here this evening and to be named to the Business Hall of Fame on its silver anniversary. Congratulations to everyone here.

- To the students who have chosen to participate in Junior Achievement. This experience will be important for the rest of your life.
- To Dwight for his inspiring words.
- To United Technologies for making this commitment to the future leadership of our country.
- To my fellow laureates, Cheryl and John, for their wonderful accomplishments.
- To all of you here who “adopt” schools and who inspire students in a multitude of ways.
- And, congratulations, too, to those who work for Junior Achievement and give your time, energy, and financial support.

Special thanks to my wonderful husband, Wally Barnes, himself an honoree a few years ago, and to my family and friends and colleagues from Aetna and KPMG who are here this evening.

We are fortunate. We live in the greatest country the world has even known. I believe the success of the US is rooted in two basic beliefs which reinforce each other: our democracy with its guarantee of personal freedom under a rule of law AND our unique brand of entrepreneurial capitalism. Or, in other words, business. We have a culture that thrives on new ideas and innovation. A culture that encourages risk-taking. Our society rewards those who think big and take risks to achieve their goals. This is the American dream. Kudos to Junior Achievement for working to help students of all ages understand the possibilities of the American dream.

I’m troubled by the business scandals of the past few years, beginning with the failure of Enron. They have damaged the image of our system of capitalism. I wonder whether young people in schools now have a much more negative view of business as a result. I hope not. But if they do and this negativity turns talented young people away from business, and even away from Junior Achievement, that will harm our country in the longer term.

Those of us here, in various parts of the business world, are working to restore trust in our system. I think most business people are honest. But the public, investors, government officials, and the media need to *believe* that our companies and the people who manage and work in them are ethical and

honest. This is why those of you who work with students through Junior Achievement are making an invaluable contribution. Being a role model who sets the right ethical standards – the right “tone at the top” – can make such a difference. Students need to see first hand that besides excellence and success, doing the right thing is part of the package too. Junior Achievement teaches both, and young people need to know that excellence and integrity go hand in hand.

So, my thanks again to Junior Achievement for honoring me but especially for the job you are doing to help young people dream and realize big dreams. You are contributing to the future of our great country.