

**Remarks by Patrick Maines**  
**2014 Friends & Benefactors Awards Banquet**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**November 18, 2014**

Thanks, Dick, and thanks too to everyone who is with us tonight.

What a great year it has been for The Media Institute!

We have spent much of the year working on the creation of a program in support of global free speech on the Internet and, happy to report, we will be announcing the launch of this program on Monday of next week.

The other notable accomplishment this year has been the terrific growth in the observance of Free Speech Week, a program created by The Media Institute nine years ago. For those of you who would like to know more about FSW, may I suggest that you visit the website of this unique national celebration at [www.freespeechweek.org](http://www.freespeechweek.org).

And as I speak of the growth this year in that program, may I say that that is owing in no small measure to the man who was this year's chairman of the FSW Advisory Council, Sen. Chris Dodd.

Finally, I have to say, though perhaps not to everyone's liking, that I take great satisfaction in the way the Supreme Court resolved the *Aereo* case. As the gifted Rod Smolla wrote in the Institute's brief in that case, "If a picture tells a thousand words, a thousand antennas tell the picture."

In closing, there is one other person in the room whom I would like to acknowledge. He is the wonderful artist, Everett Spruill. As part of Free Speech Week this year, we commissioned a series of original artwork from Everett, tied to the theme of freedom of speech. Evidence of his work can be seen in tonight's program, in brochures, and in some of the paintings themselves that have been placed around the ballroom. In addition to being beautiful, proceeds from the sale of these original works will benefit the Everett Spruill Foundation, an organization that works to perpetuate the legacy of African-American artists.

So that's about it. Just another great year in the life of the organization I'm proud to lead. Thanks, as always, to all of you.