

**Remarks by Randall Stephenson
Presenting The Media Institute's
2021 American Horizon Award
To William E. Kennard
October 20, 2021**

Thanks, Dick...

It's an honor to present the American Horizon Award to my friend, Bill Kennard. Bill and I spent several years working side-by-side on the AT&T Board of Directors, and when I stepped down as Chairman of AT&T earlier this year, I was thrilled when Bill was elected to replace me.

There is nobody who brings more experience and knowledge in the media and communications industry than Bill Kennard. He's one of the best minds in the business.

President Obama appointed him as the United States Ambassador to the European Union and Bill Clinton appointed him as the Chairman of the FCC. In each of those roles, he received broad endorsements from government and business leaders. In fact, the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union awarded Ambassador Kennard the Transatlantic Business Award, the organization's highest honor. And *U.S. News and World Report* called Chairman Kennard "a consumer champion for the digital age."

Whether serving as an Ambassador or the top regulator over media and communications, Bill designed and pursued policies with three overriding objectives:

- Drive up competition;
- Stimulate investment; and
- Bring the benefits of the digital age to everyone.

As a business leader investing billions of dollars, you couldn't expect more from your regulator than such clarity of purpose and consistency in his oversight. And that is what Bill brought.

His effectiveness as a policy maker was obviously shaped by his own real world experiences from investing in these industries, whether leading private equity investments at the Carlyle Group or founding and leading his own asset management company.

Bill has always appreciated the important role media and communications play in our society ... even before the technologies we enjoy today were widely deployed.

Back in the 1990s, when he served as Chairman of the FCC, he predicted a world with...

- Real-time video calls...
- Movie downloads in minutes...
- And browsing webpages as quickly as we change a TV channel.

Those were radical concepts in the 1990s, but look where we are today.

When the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, networks around the world were pressure-tested by the sudden demands of unprecedented video conferencing from home. And the United States networks stood tall because of the foresight and foundations laid at the very beginning of the digital age by the likes of Bill Kennard.

I can think of nobody more deserving to be recognized for their contributions in supporting the vitality of American communications.

Congratulations, Bill.