

**Remarks by Richard E. Wiley  
Accepting The Media Institute's  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
October 29, 2024**

Rick, thank you so much for your all-too-kind remarks. It is truly an honor to receive this wonderful award.

However, I imagine that some of you here tonight may be wondering just how old one has to be to get a Lifetime Achievement Award. You know, I'm not really sure. But whatever it is, in this regard at least, I am fully qualified!

But seriously, I especially appreciate tonight's recognition, coming as it does from our Institute's President. For many years, it has been my privilege to work closely with Rick Kaplar (and his predecessor, Patrick Maines), and to observe first-hand the enormous time, effort, and leadership talent that he devotes to The Media Institute's numerous activities – including the planning and execution of this annual Gala dinner. And, also, how much he honors and promotes our core principles – in particular the importance of Freedom of Speech to the Nation.

So, Rick, thanks for all you do. And, someday, you also may be entitled to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. But, of course, only when you meet that key criterion!

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our program for this evening. Before we adjourn, let's give one more well-deserved round of applause to Commissioner Gomez, Pat Butler, and Floyd Abrams.

Thank you, one and all, and good night. Please have safe journeys home.