Thank you, President McRobbie. And thanks to all of you for joining us on this momentous day for the Maurer School of Law and the entire Bloomington campus.

As you might imagine, it always feels good to be back in this familiar building, and it feels especially good today as we celebrate its brand new names: Baier Hall, and the Jerome Hall Law Library. It is also a privilege to be the one to speak for the Bloomington campus today, but of course the occasion for my speaking, instead of attending, is one that weighs heavily on all of us. Provost Robel has enormous admiration and affection for Lowell Baier, and it is only the most grievous events that could keep her away today.
I know that, on this day of celebration, we are also holding both her and Steve in our hearts.

This is truly a day of celebration. We come together today at a prominent corner of our campus. Baier Hall stands alongside Bryan Hall, the Sample Gates, and Franklin Hall to form a gateway that not only invites people onto our campus, but also acts as a physical embodiment of the deep connections between our campus and the larger Bloomington community. Baier Hall also stands on the edge of Dunn Woods, and thanks to inspired design, Dunn Woods in effect makes up the eastern wall of Jerome Hall Law Library. The woods are perhaps the most outstanding of the many areas of our campus that preserve the natural beauty that is a hallmark of the Bloomington region.
It is fitting, then, that this building should be named after a man whose life has been dedicated to community service and the preservation of our nation’s natural beauty.

Lowell Baier is rightly considered one of America’s leading conservationists. In fact, he has been named Conservationist of the Year on multiple occasions by many organizations, including by the readers of *Outdoor Life* magazine. He is a Certified Forest Steward, a leading member of the Boone and Crockett Club, a founding member of the Wild Sheep Foundation, and a life-long supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, having attained the rank of Eagle Scout as an adolescent – which, if you don’t know scouting, is a very big deal.
EVP APPLEGATE continues:

His notable accomplishments as a conservationist include heading efforts to reclaim land that had once been part of Theodore Roosevelt’s Elkhorn Ranch, and to reincorporate that land into Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

President Roosevelt’s great-grandson, Theodore Roosevelt IV, wrote a letter in support of awarding Mr. Baier an honorary degree. In that letter, Mr. Roosevelt wrote about Mr. Baier’s exceptional role in guiding the Boone and Crockett Club, an organization founded by President Roosevelt in 1887. He wrote that “the club had been taken over by a group of people who thought the object of hunting was primarily to collect trophies,” and had little sense of our responsibility to the future generations who will inherit the natural landscapes that we ourselves have inherited.
Mr. Baier renewed the spirit of conservation that had been instilled in the club by Theodore Roosevelt, and he guided inspired efforts to rehabilitate and preserve natural habitats for wildlife around the country.

This accomplishment is only a small part of Mr. Baier’s efforts as a conservationist, but it speaks volumes about what it means to be a conservationist. Now, as you know, I’m a chemicals-and-nukes environmental law guy, but one of the best things about being a faculty member here at the Maurer School is that I have wonderful birds-and-bunnies colleagues, and they’ve taught me a few things.
EVP APPLEGATE continues:

I’ve learned, for example, that a good conservationist has two distinguishing features: first, a talent for identifying that which is worth preserving—whether it is a natural landscape under threat, or an approach to the environment that has stood the test of time. And second, a profound sense of responsibility to future generations – our children and grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren.

These features also define a great university. As we approach our Bicentennial, we at IU Bloomington find ourselves in a time of great change, with new schools being formed, new buildings being erected, and new degrees and academic programs being shaped to meet the demands of IU’s third century. We even have Bicentennial Strategic Plan that puts it all in writing. (Just thought I’d mention that.)
EVP APPLEGATE continues:

Yet, amidst all of this change, we also find that our responsibilities as conservationists are more pressing than ever. It is our duty to preserve the ideals and aspirations upon which Indiana University was founded, and which are articulated by our Principles of Excellence. These are ideals worth passing on to future generations of students. They are ideals exemplified by the outstanding mentoring of the late Dr. Jerome Hall, ideals which he in turn passed on to today’s honored guest, and which he is in turn making it possible to pass on to future generations of law students.
EVP APPLEGATE continues:

For the future law students who will study here, Baier Hall and the Jerome Hall Law Library will serve as constant reminders of the remarkable power of conservation to link our past with our future, through generosity motivated by a deep sense of responsibility and stewardship.

Thank you, Lowell Baier.

(After his remarks, EVP APPLEGATE is seated; DEAN PARRISH goes to podium).