

AFTE 2005 – June 23, Indianapolis, Indiana

Acceptance Speech by 2005 Calvin Goddard Award Winner John Murdock

Thank you Joe (Zorola) and Ron (Marrs); Members of the Board of Directors, fellow AFTE members, and Guests:

I am honored to receive this award, because of the name it bears, Calvin Goddard; who it is given by, Forensic Technology; and the organization, AFTE, that has created a venue for its presentation. And, I would like to comment on all three.

Calvin Goddard brought professionalism, the use of the scientific method, and reliability to Forensic Firearm Identification, at a time when charlatanism was rampant in this field. His testimony in 1923 in the Frye case and others, paved the way for judicial acceptance of Firearms Identification. It is ironic that I have lectured about his contributions for years in the Criteria for Toolmark Identification classes.

Forensic Technology is an increasingly important part of the International Criminal Justice Community. Their bullet and cartridge case comparison systems provide key investigative information that helps solve crimes, and will soon be used to help us establish the scientific basis for the identification of toolmarks. It is the efforts of the men and women of Forensic Technology, whom I have always found to be responsive, forthright, honest, and genuinely interested in providing the best and highest quality product at any given time, that makes this happen. We are indebted to them for their efforts to provide solutions to make the world safer. We are especially indebted to AFTE member and FTI employee John O'Neil, who has worked hard to bridge the gap between AFTE and FTI to help ensure the relevancy of their identification systems.

For over 35 years AFTE has been the relevant professional association that meets the 1923 Frye Court definition as setting standards for what are accepted practices in the Firearm and Toolmark Identification field. I am proud to be an AFTE member and will continue to work hard, along with others, to contribute. The combined efforts of hundreds of AFTE members, from provisional to regular to distinguished members to technical advisors, makes our association what it is, a professional group held in high esteem by the rest of the Forensic Science community.

But, for me personally, this award is very significant. About a year ago, I began using, in lectures on the ethics of forensic science, a writing by Dale Wimbrow that appears in a book by Ken Blanchard and Norman Vincent Peale entitled "The Power of Ethical Management". I think that I began using this writing because the older I get, the more introspective and reflective I get about what I have done professionally. I don't think that I am alone in reflecting, looking back, in this way. Indeed, I think that it is healthy for all of us to do this, as we proceed along the pathways of our lives.

THE MAN IN THE GLASS
BY
DALE WIMBROW

When you get what you want in your struggle
for self
 And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself
 And see what THAT man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
 Whose judgment upon you must pass;
The fellow whose verdicts counts most in your
life
 Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you a straight-shootin
chum
 And call you a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
 If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,
 For he's with you clear up to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, diffi-
cult test
 If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway
of life
 And get pats on your back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and
tears
 If you've cheated the man in the glass.

This award helps me look straight into the eyes; of the man, in my glass.

Thank you very much for this award.

Mr. President

