

AFTE 2006 – June 29, 2006

Acceptance Speech by Dr. James Hamby – Winner of the 2006 Colonel Calvin H. Goddard Award

Mr. President, Mr. Zorola, Members of the Board of Directors, fellow AFTE Members and Honored Guests. I am extremely honored to be the recipient of the Colonel Calvin H. Goddard Award at this year's AFTE Training Seminar. It is absolutely a 'capstone' to my 36 year career as a firearm and toolmark examiner and a great way to celebrate my 35th consecutive AFTE meeting.

It is also an honor to share this award with past recipients such as Scott Doyle and John Murdock – professionals that I admire and attempt to emulate in my daily life. In John's acceptance speech last year, he discussed Colonel Goddard, Forensic Technology, and our Association – AFTE. I would like to also comment on these three areas.

Although I never had the opportunity to meet Colonel Goddard as he passed away in 1955, I feel like I know him from my extensive studies of the history of our profession. Colonel Goddard was very instrumental in our science being accepted throughout the United States. Most of you are aware that Colonel Goddard commanded the US Army Crime Laboratory in Japan for a number of years after World War II. I was fortunate to be trained in the US Army Laboratory System and to serve in the Japan laboratory for 5 years.

Forensic Technology has, and continues to be, an ardent supporter of our Association. They continue to implement newer technologies that will allow forensic laboratories to better serve law enforcement agencies and citizens in countries around the world. The Goddard Award has a provision for expense monies for the recipient of up to \$2,000. I talked with Mr. Bob Walsh, President of FTI, and asked that he consider letting me donate the money to our AFTE Scholarship Fund. Bob was quite gracious and gave his approval to my request. I have given our treasurer the check for \$2,000 and do so in honor of our first AFTE President – Mr. Walter J. Howe. Incidentally, Dom Denio and I had the opportunity to visit Walter yesterday and he sends his warm regards to everyone here at the seminar. During the visit and acting as the head AFTE Dinosaur, I presented Walter membership as an Honorary Dinosaur.

For those that know me, you know that AFTE is a large part of my life. I have been blessed to serve in a variety of positions within our Association over the years and truly enjoy the camaraderie and intellectual stimulation while attending these seminars. It is also my observation, based on having attended these seminars, interacting with many of you over the years, and reading our excellent Journal, that our Association continues to be in an excellent position to continue to advance our field. I am equally gratified to see the level of involvement from our younger examiners and would request that each of you become involved in the operation of our Association. There are a wide variety of rewarding activities that you can be involved in that will benefit both yourself and our Association.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Bob Walsh and everyone from Forensic Technology for this award. There are also a great number of individuals – many in this audience - who have had an impact on my life and career but I would like to specifically mention five people that are also very special to me. They are: Chief Warrant Officer Claude W. Cook (retired Army & CBI examiner - now deceased) who helped me get into this field back in 1970, Chief Warrant Officer Monty C. Lutz (retired Army & Wisconsin examiner) who provided me with the best possible training and motivation during my studies at the US Army Crime Laboratory – then at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Mr. Walter J. Howe (who I consider to be the 'father' of our Association) for his support and guidance over the years; Dr. James Thorpe (senior lecturer at the University of Strathclyde and my advisor during my Ph.D. studies) and finally – to my wife Patricia (also a forensic scientist) for her understanding and support of my activities within AFTE.

Thank you.