

Speech of Council Member George Jacob, delivered by his son Jake Jacob

May 3, 2011

Good evening.....and welcome to all who are here tonight and are watching at home.

My second oldest, Jake, will read this statement for me. It is his first public speech. Not too many 6th graders make public speeches, and I am as proud as a father can be that he volunteered to do this for me. I know he is nervous, and I know there is other business to get done tonight, so I won't be too long. Please know there is so much more I want to say, that won't be said.

Officeholders remember their first speeches, how nervous they were, and I certainly remember mine. I had been so very fortunate and thankful to be appointed by Jim Ardis 6 years ago when he had been elected Mayor. It was a council seat that he had earned, not me. It changed my life forever in so many wonderful ways that I could not possibly foresee. I say thank you Jim for selecting me.

The citizens of this great city elected me 4 years ago to my own term. I was president of a large business, and you humbled me by allowing me to serve you. I can never thank you enough for the privilege you gave me.

It allowed me to meet so many of the thousands of people that make this ordinary dot on the globe the very special, special place that I know it is. I especially enjoyed attending the neighborhood meetings, and working side by side with the neighbors in the older neighborhoods. I have missed those meetings, and I have missed you tremendously, this past year.

I want to extend my best wishes to the new council members, Beth Akesson and Chuck Weaver. Please don't ever forget who you serve, and make sure you soak it all in. No matter how long you serve, the time here goes by so very quickly.

I want to address my fellow council members and city staff. I know how truly important family is. I do not use that term lightly. You have been my Tuesday night family. Like most families, we disagreed sometimes. We get frustrated with each other at times. I respected each and every one of you, and what you try to do for the people of this city. We did good things together. Thank you for your friendship and support.

The deck has been shuffled many times since that first speech of mine six years ago. You would not remember this, but I told you then, using a poker analogy, that I was "all in."

In the first 5 years that I served, I tried my very best, every single day, to live up to that commitment I made to you.

This last year, I have not been able to be there for you.....but you have been there for me when I have needed you the most. I have felt your support and prayers. It has strengthened me, and I will never be able to repay you. Thank you for being there for me.

I have been dealt a bad card, but I still have a good hand to play. I have a strong faith. I have great friends who are there for me, and I have prayers from people who hardly know me.

I have great parents, Bud and Margie Jacob, my brother Paul and sister Meg. They have given me unending love, support and comfort.

I still have 5 aces in that hand. They are called George, Jake, Katherine, Tommie, and Ben. I have a great wife, Jeannine, who has stood by me every single day,.....in good times.....and bad,in sickness and in health. She has shown her tremendous inner strength when my outer strength was taken from me. I wake up every day for them and work to get better.

I have come a long way, and I have farther to go. If there is one thing I know, I know that no one knows what tomorrow holds. Perhaps someday in the future our paths will cross again, and there will be a way that I can be of service to you again.

Thank you for your friendship, your support, and your prayers.

God Bless You.

George Jacob