

Remarks by Kevin Gunn

Chairman of Missouri Public Service Commission

Terry Barnich Award Ceremony

February 3, 2013

My name is Kevin Gunn. I'm Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission and I had the honor to nominate David Boyd for the award. Before I begin, I want to acknowledge and thank USAID for giving regulators opportunities to do work worthy of recognition through the Barnich award.

Being nominated and winning the Terry Barnich award can be an incredibly humbling experience. I didn't know Terry when I won, but I was fortunate to hear from people who were close to him...in fact from people whom were with him that terrible day in Iraq. Terry had a single minded dedication to his task.

Hearing about this dedication, a dedication that ultimately resulted in him sacrificing his life for a cause, you begin to wonder whether any of the awardees will ever live up to the example set by Terry.

But, if you look a little deeper into the purpose of the award, I think that the vision of the award is to recognize regulators who at first blush appear to do something ordinary.

You see, this award is meant for a person who is simply dedicated to their job and doing that job the best way that they know how. Terry didn't go to Iraq expecting to make the ultimate sacrifice. He didn't go to Iraq for awards or for recognition. He went there to make life better for people. To give them light and water, to help them rebuild and organize so that they could begin to heal, to begin to recover. No, he wasn't there for awards, he just wanted to do his job...the only way he knew how.

So yes, this award is meant to honor Terry and his sacrifice, but the regulator it recognizes is the same type of person that Terry was, someone with his same spirit and sense of dedication.

Today we honor someone who has shown that simple dedication to doing his job and in doing that job enhances the reputation of NARUC, but more importantly, the reputation of the United States.

David Boyd has done an unbelievable job of steering NARUC's Black Sea partnership. His dedication to helping these emerging countries means long hours of travel away from his family

and away from his state. It means not only sitting through meetings but being available for discussion on the telephone or by email. He performs these tasks, not begrudgingly, but with enthusiasm. (Although I've heard a rumor that with two Great Dane puppies, maybe he doesn't mind the relative peace and quiet of moderating between Azerbaijan and Armenia every now and then.)

David's work in the region has helped transform relationships in a region that just a few decades ago was poised to go to war with the United States. Traditional enemies have become friends and collaborators. The United State's reputation has been enhanced and the Black Sea region is working towards professional utility regulatory agencies, which in many cases is a prerequisite to robust economic development.

And what has David asked in return. The answer is simple: NOTHING

Extraordinary people believe they are ordinary. Why? Because they cannot conceive of doing their job any different than they do. They can't imagine doing anything less than excellently. They see a job or a task and they perform at a high level, simply because it is the right thing to do.

And that is why we are honoring David Boyd today. We recognize him because he never asked for or expected recognition, because he did nothing but concentrate on a job that needed to be done and it it exceptionally well.

If you think that David only performs this way on the international stage, all you have to do is look at the other two nominators: they are his fellow Commissioners. They see him tackle his job in Minnesota in the same way he tackled his international responsibilities. I nominated David because I saw the dedication and decency in everything that he did: EISPC, personal friendships and his role with the Black Sea partnership. David is quite simply a good person who strives to always do the right thing and in the process has enhanced the global reputation of regulators, NARUC and the United States.

So yes, winning the Terry Barnich award is humbling, but I think that Terry would agree that David exemplifies the same spirit and dedication that this award is meant to recognize. David, Congratulations, and thank you for being an example to us all and living the spirit of Terry Barnich.