

APPENDIX B

**UNC Board of Governors
2015 Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Award for Excellence in Public Service
Remarks by Award Recipient
Dr. Carmen Vincent Russoniello
October 30, 2015**

“Good Morning

Members of the Board of Governors, President Ross, and other distinguished guests.

Chancellor Ballard; Dean Gilbert, Rose, Students and Ruth Ann

When I was a kid and would tell my Mom, who raised 16 of us, about some problem I’d solved, hardship I’d overcome, or that I’d done something to help one of my brothers and sisters, she would often say, “Do you think you deserve a medal or a monument?” My Mom worked hard and did for others and had high expectations. In her mind doing those things was expected. She taught me that you work hard and you do for others.

That philosophy served me well as an 18-year-old Marine in Viet Nam; it probably saved my life. Those of us that survived likely did so because we did for each other; we looked out for each other.

When the opportunity to work with young wounded Marines was presented to me 40 years later, I was honored to be asked. In the years since, my students and I have worked with these men to help them recover from the trauma of war and in doing so, I too, have felt healed.

What I discovered through public service was what my Mom had tried to teach me – that doing for others is expected and the rewards are not medals or monuments. The rewards are the thought and feeling that maybe I made as much of a difference in other people’s lives as they have made in mine.

“I’m very honored to be selected for this award. Providing service to my community has always seemed like a natural thing to do. The rewards have been many and often unexpected. I give credit to my early life experiences for the need I felt to work with people in the community who don’t have access to services.”

And Hey, Mom, I did get a medal!”

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