

Dr. Robert E. Tranquada, M.D. §1
Pomona College Commencement 2007
May 13, 2007

Let me begin by thanking Pomona College and the Board of Trustees for this wonderful honor. It is deeply appreciated, coming from this institution that I so deeply respect.

There are some curious facts surrounding this honor. Exactly 60 years after the founding of Pomona College, I arrived as a student. And then, exactly 60 years later, I got my degree. That must be some kind of record. Do you suppose that it is a pure coincidence that 60 is 1.2765957 times 47?

7 KH *RVSHO RI 0DUN DWWULEXWHV WR -HVXV D FRPPHQW WKI
in his own country, a PRQJ KLVDPRZQ\ DQG KLV RZQ KRKR R U+HG LKHU BH
among my own family, my assumption is that I am no prophet. I should have foreseen that. But then, I have known perfectly well that we are, of course, a not-for-profit institution.

Whatever I have achieved is clearly the product of all that has been given to me by my family, my school and my friends and colleagues. I was extremely fortunate to have two wonderful parents, both graduates of Pomona College. The most important lesson they taught me was that whatever I was doing ±playing in a football game, taking an algebra test, going to an important interview ±WKDW , VKRXOG DOZD\V UHPHRRR Z% X WKW R L G
stop there, they provided role models I could not ignore. I was incredibly fortunate to have that guidance and that model ±for I have always strived to remember which family I come from and to try to live up to that goals.

I have been equally as fortunate in the support and companionship, on which I have thrived, provided by my wife Janet of nearly 56 years. I owe Pomona another undying debt of gratitude for having ad PLWWHG KHU WR WKH FODVV RI ¶ to tr6 (o)-3 (st)o0 Td st fr hfoyc

Police Department) in 1991, and chaired the Los Angeles County Task Force on Health Care Access from 1992-1993. Tranquada is the author of more than 60 published scientific and educational papers and book chapters. He received an honorary Sc.D. from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1988.