Thank you Jack and good morning to all of you, and I welcome you on behalf of our students, faculty and staff. I want to extend a welcome as well to Dr. Todd, our 11th President. Thank you for being here today.

It is with a great deal of pride that I stand alongside all of you today in honoring David Roselle. It’s a special occasion and we pay tribute to his wonderful service. When I visited in June before I started the job in July, I met with dozens of faculty and staff in small group meetings. Often when I asked for advice on how I should conduct myself, I heard frequently people say “Be faculty centered like Dr. Roselle.” So Dr. Roselle, I will try to continue in your tradition.

And that sentiment is continually reaffirmed when I meet with faculty and staff across the campus. They share stories of how Dr. Roselle would visit the classes and laboratories unannounced to simply listen to what was going on on our campus, to detect its heartbeat, to understand the soul that reverberates across this entire campus.

Through these stories and experiences I am confident that the board’s decision to name a building after Dr. Roselle is both popular on our campus and appropriate for a number of reasons. Chief among them are the principles with which Dr. Roselle led this institution. He navigated us during some challenging times and his work gilded a more honest institution, reinforcing a foundation upon which we could be very proud. He put forth principles that resound today in what we call today “The Kentucky Promise,” to serve as the Commonwealth’s shining beacon by delivering comprehensive education, conducting groundbreaking research and service that uplifts our community.

He, too, believed in the importance in investing in and supporting the best faculty and staff. Without this world-class talent, we do our students and our state a disservice.

And he believed that we must invest in our students to find new opportunities to ensure access to a high quality degree. He pursued passionately, a students-first university that mentors and prepares students for lives of leadership, meaning and purpose.

Part of that investment includes state of the art living and learning communities. This residence hall, this program that you have had the benefit of seeing this morning will now bare his name. But there are only a few of these that meet this standard on campus and we are going to work feverishly over the next 4 years to build more and more residence halls like this so that additional students will experience what goes on here today.
Finally, I learned that Dr. Roselle was among the most technologically savvy presidents of his time. It was written in the Herald Leader that “he was doing e-mail.” As I struggle with a lot of social media, I think I can save some pages out of his book.

From here, he went on to the University of Delaware and instilled principles that would lead them to be one of the nation’s most prominent public universities, a research university that is serving its state and the best traditions of education, research and service.

On a day of reflection, I move to think about what is most precious to each and every one of us. It is time. Satisfaction does not come from the mere possession of it. Joy does reveal itself in how we spend it. David Roselle’s time as president at the University of Kentucky was brief, but he spent it well.

Last night we gathered with the Roselle’s and those who served alongside him. It was laughter, tributes and recollections of time. If you use them wisely, it would have cast a shadow of darkness on what is most precious to the university. It’s honor. Your colleagues last evening shared with me what guided you during those days. It was the commitment to be able to look at one another at the end of a tough day and reaffirm by saying to one another “We are doing the right thing.”

Dr. Roselle, in this tradition, we are working to do the right thing. As we renew our commitment to the Kentucky Promise so that we too can add another positive chapter and a bright future for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and citizens of the state.

Thank you, Dr. Roselle, for your innovative leadership and for your character and service to the University of Kentucky. We are honored that you joined us today and privileged for your name to adorn this residence hall. Thank you very much.