



**In Honor of
Morris I. (Morry) Leibman
1911 - 1992**

*Public Servant
Advisor to Four Presidents
Founder of the United States Institute of Peace
Winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom
Trustee of Loyola University Chicago*

It is highly fitting that many important initiatives of Loyola University Chicago are supported by the Morris I. Leibman Endowment Fund, given by the Dr. Scholl Foundation to honor Mr. Leibman and support his passion for the study of law and the strategy of social change. Morry Leibman's family and friends hope that conference participants benefit from this event and that it stimulates critical thinking about the challenges of peace and conflict. They also hope that participants will be interested in the man himself: his concepts and his impact on others and on society.

It is difficult to sum up a life as rich and complex as that of Morry Leibman, but he was above all an investor: in ideas, in people, in relationships, in institutions, and in his country. His thoughts on peace and conflict are especially relevant to this conference. A believer in the importance of peace, he regarded it as a goal to be achieved, but not humanity's natural state. Shortly before his death he summed up his views in a discussion with syndicated columnist and close friend Georgie Anne Geyer, saying "conflict is normal around the world" and "the idea that peace is normal and that conflict is an aberration ... has caused us a lot of trouble." As a result, "we're not looking for 'solutions,' we're looking for management." Ms. Geyer summed up his thought well: "Morry was an eloquent realist. He hated utopianism almost as much as he hated cruelty and injustice.... To him, every policy, every principle, every program must be based on human nature, or it would fail. His personal and public philosophies were as simple as they were profound and he lived them all his life – which is why, in death, so many still look to him."

Morry Leibman was an original thinker, an institution builder, and a tireless campaigner for worthy causes. Among the institutions he founded were the United States Institute of Peace, the National Strategy Forum, the Standing Committee on Law and National Security of the American Bar Association, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Loyola University Chicago from June 1971 to June 1981. Until 1970 the Board was composed entirely of Jesuits and Morry Leibman became the first Jewish member. Indeed, he took pride in being regarded as a "Jewish Jesuit." As Father Raymond C. Baumhart, S.J., Loyola University President

from 1970-1993, recently recalled, “Morry’s legal knowledge, his experience in dealing with complex issues and institutions, and his unique analytical skills were invaluable to the Board as the University and its Medical Center grew and prospered through the 1970s. He was very wise, a jewel of a trustee.”

No one who knew Morry Leibman ever forgot him, and he was a master of networking long before the Internet made it easier. Always willing to help others professionally, he was an inspiration to generations of lawyers and public servants from all political perspectives. A former law partner noted, "His genius was in the study of human nature - in the study of people. In applying his genius to the study of law, he was a great lawyer; in applying his genius to policy and politics, he was a great strategic thinker; and in applying his genius to life, he was a great human being." His wife Mary recently summed up some of his rare qualities: “Morry was absolutely 100% trustable. He was not intimidated by life or by people or by complexity. He was loyal to his friends - no matter what. He helped people maximize abilities that some people did not even know they had. He loved the United States of America, warts and all. Morry was like a jumper cable: he got things and people started so they could run on their own.”

Morry Leibman was a patriot, but not in a narrow sense. In his own words, “Our love of America cannot rest on mere chauvinism or nationalism or on only emotional patriotism.” His protégé, civic leader and National Strategy Forum President Richard E. Friedman, remarked, “Morry was a quiet patriot who cherished democracy, which he viewed as a work in progress. He acknowledged the imperfections of American democracy and he worked tirelessly and effectively to correct them. Morry was a Johnny Appleseed – the creator of many national security and national strategy organizations – and a mentor of young people who would be the next generation of America's leaders. This may be his most important legacy.” In the words of the citation on his Presidential Medal of Freedom, “Morris Leibman has served selflessly to make America a just, healthy society within and a strong, secure nation without.”

Morry Leibman’s overarching goal was to support freedom, “the right of every man to conduct himself as he chooses in his quest for self-fulfillment and the good life, provided that he diminishes in no way the right of his fellow man to do as he.” He regarded the guarantees of the American Constitution and laws as fundamental bulwarks of liberty, saying “political liberty is assured when individual freedom is given explicit form and when sovereignty lies in the governed. Then, hopefully, not only will freedom continue to prevail, but the result will be that long-sought end of the philosophers – Justice!”

A U.S. Supreme Court Justice called Morry Leibman “an irrepressible optimist,” continuing, “He was always bursting out, brimming over, with hopes, with plans, with projects, with proposals. Brimming over to such a degree that it was quite impossible to get near him without getting wet.” Morry Leibman was, he said, “an ardent patriot; tireless crusader; inspiring friend. Chicago, Washington, the United States are better places because we were lucky enough to have him here.”

These are troubling times and we are much in need of the wise counsel of Morry Leibman. As Richard E. Friedman said, “Morry, where are you? We need you.” Fortunately, the investments he made in people and institutions remain with us, and our university is forever enriched by the contributions of this great and good man.

*John Allen Williams
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