

**Retirement Celebration for Michael R. Anastasio
Los Alamos National Laboratory
May 26, 2011**

**Remarks by Bruce B. Darling
Los Alamos National Security, LLC Board of Governors
and
Vice President, Laboratory Management
University of California**

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to join you in celebrating Mike Anastasio's retirement. Norman Pattiz, the Chairman of Los Alamos National Security, LLC was unable to be here today and asked me to represent the Board of Governors. Those of us who serve on the LLC Board are privileged to serve the nation as stewards of the Laboratory, a responsibility we take very seriously.

Los Alamos is one of a select few institutions that have defined an era in human history. Some great institutions make transformational contributions to science and society but then wither away until they are mere artifacts of a glorious past. Others find new life beyond their initial purpose to become enduring and vital institutions. Los Alamos is such an institution, one with a resplendent past and a vibrant future.

Mike Anastasio has been an extraordinary leader at a critical time for this Laboratory. He helped Los Alamos regain its footing and move forward with renewed purpose and determination after one of the most difficult periods in the Laboratory's history.

In 2005, after five years as Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and as a founder of the science-based Stockpile Stewardship Program, Mike agreed to lead the Los Alamos National Security (LANS) LLC bid to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory. It was an act of undaunted courage, taken at great personal and professional risk, against what were considered to be insuperable odds. And Mike's role was decisive in the successful outcome.

For the past five years, Mike has worked tirelessly and, at times under the most demanding circumstances, to strengthen the Laboratory and restore its public reputation. In doing so, he set the highest standards of leadership in working with the federal government, the LANS Board of Governors, Laboratory employees, and the people of New Mexico. He was engaging, persuasive, and passionate about the mission of the Laboratory.

Today, as a result of Mike's efforts, Los Alamos is once again best known for its scientific achievements and its contributions to national security. Mike leaves a unique legacy as the only person to have served as Director of both Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos national laboratories. His integrity, technical proficiency, and deep commitment to our nation's security have made him a respected and trusted advisor to the President and Congress.

Mike, in recognition of your contributions to the national laboratories, the University, and the nation, I would like to present two gifts to you. The first gift is a proclamation expressing the profound and enduring gratitude of the LANS Board of Governors for your service to Los Alamos. It extolls your virtues and expresses our appreciation in eloquent prose.

The second gift, from the University of California, recognizes your thirty-one years of exemplary service to our nation at both national laboratories. Two weeks ago, the Regents of the University of California honored you at the May Regents' meeting. Today, this Tiffany bowl is one further expression of the University's high esteem for you.

In concluding, I want to assert that Mike's accomplishments are beyond the capabilities of any one person – no matter how talented and energetic that person may be. So, I want to recognize and express the deep appreciation of the LANS Board and the University of California to Ann Anastasio for the advice and support she has given Mike at Los Alamos and throughout his career. Ann, would you please stand and be recognized?

And, finally, I want to thank each employee at Los Alamos for working so effectively with Mike to advance science, improve the human condition, and serve the nation with unparalleled distinction.