

Remarks by Cathy E. Minehan
at
1996 NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP AWARDS
April 25, 1996

Good evening, and welcome to one of the year's most exciting evenings. It's exciting for many reasons: because it honors women in New England for their contributions to the community and their excellence in the fields of business, education, communication, sports, and human services; because it honors all women who work hard and give something back to their communities; and because it benefits the Daniel Marr Boys and Girls Club.

The Club was founded by Bob Marr and his late brother Dan about 20 years ago. Named in honor of their Dad, it is an institution that can make the difference between failure and success in so many young people's lives. It is an organization dedicated to creating a positive environment for young girls and boys, a safe haven where children can focus on things that you and I may take for granted: working towards one's potential; finding satisfaction in work and every day life; developing a sense of healthy competition and community; forming bonds of friendship; having positive role models. I have visited the Club

as many of you have, and come away impressed and moved by the dedication of the staff, the quality of the program, and the sheer enthusiasm of the kids. I can think of no more deserving an organization.

I'd like to congratulate the winners of the 1996 New England Women's Leadership Awards. They will be introduced more formally later, but they are a group of five very impressive and caring women whose accomplishments are emblematic of the ideals of the American character: individual achievement and equality of opportunity.

It's also my job tonight to thank the many people who have made this evening possible:

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Also, thanks to the Co-Chairs for this evening's dinner, most of whom are here in this room. They have helped to support and develop interest in tonight's event, and have nominated and chosen our 1996 award recipients.

On a sad note, I realize many of you have been looking for my Honorary Co-Chair, June Rokoff, who was supposed to be here tonight. It is with deep regret that I inform you of her father's sudden passing on Tuesday night, thus her absence. We are all saddened by this terrible news, and I know I speak for all of us here when I say that our thoughts are with June tonight and our heartfelt condolences go out to her family.

Finally, thanks to the members of the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club for their hard work all year long in overseeing the Club and in support of this event:

GERRY MORRISSEY, CHAIRMAN

DON RODMAN, PRESIDENT

MAUREEN PETERSON, VICE PRESIDENT; AND

BOB SCANNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB.

One additional and very important note--I am delighted to report that our audience tonight boasts the highest ratio of male participants we've

566 women
130 men

696 attendees

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had at the awards to date--about 20 percent. This is obviously an indicator of both the high regard for the excellent work of the Boys & Girls Club, as well as the ever-increasing support and recognition of women in leadership roles by the male segment of the professional community. To the men CEOs here tonight, many of whom I know well, I'd like to say a special thank you for coming and showing your support for two great causes, and I invite you to tell your fellow male executives about this benefit and encourage them to participate with you next year!

Again, congratulations to this evening's winners and thank you all for coming. We have a fun, inspirational evening ahead of us, and I'm pleased you could be here to share it with me.

And now, I'd like to invite Tonika Farrell of the Boys and Girls Club and Amalia Barreda to come to the podium . . .