

Transcript from the Media Research Center's 2013 annual Gala and "DisHonors Awards" on Thursday, September 26 at the JW Marriott hotel in Washington, DC.

Presentation to Dr. Charles Krauthammer of the seventh annual "William F. Buckley Jr. Award for Media Excellence." (Transcribed by Michael Chapman)

Video: <http://www.mrc.org/notable-quotables/mrc-gala-and-2013-dishonors-awards#wfb>

CAL THOMAS, INTRODUCTION: I want to thank Brent [Bozell] for not putting my picture in the program tonight. I'm so tired of getting letters from desperate housewives.

It's a great personal privilege for me to present my second favorite columnist, Charles Krauthammer, with this year's - my first [favorite], of course, is Maureen Dowd -- with this year's William F. Buckley Award for Media Excellence. I started reading Charles as a child.

In fact, my father was a fan of his during World War II. Now, while most of you are familiar with his work in the rapidly declining industry called newspapers and the rapidly ascending medium known as Fox News, little is known about Charles, the man. So, thanks to the NSA, the IRS, the FBI, Lois Lerner, and other sources, I have compiled some little known facts about Charles's early life - so little known, he doesn't even know them....

Charles applied for a job as ethics adviser to Marion Barry, Washington's former mayor but surviving city council member who has been censured once again - for how many times, I don't know. He was rejected because he wasn't willing to drive Barry to nocturnal meetings with constituents - all of whom, coincidentally, were female - at two in the morning. Charles then thought about advising President Clinton on women's issues. But he found that Clinton had more hands-on experience than he did. (That was an easy one, wasn't it?) It was only then that Charles decided to speak and write about serious subjects.

His syndicated column began in 1985 in the middle of the Reagan Revolution. He's won the Pulitzer Prize, one of the few conservatives to do so. He is a medical doctor and psychiatrist, which gives him standing to analyze crazy liberal ideas and behavior. He worked as a speech writer for Walter Mondale, for which we can forgive him as Reagan won in a landslide in 1984. (I think he was a plant myself.)

Now, he gets a lot of letters as we all do about his column, especially from women prisoners. The bureau of prisons shared some of these with me that they had intercepted for this high-class event tonight. Here's one from a woman named Nadine: "Oh, Charles, I'm in love with your mind. Please wait for me, I'll be out in ten years after serving time for shooting my abusive late husband." Could be a keeper there.

On his impressive and lengthy resume, what I find most intriguing is that Charles is chairman of something known as Pro Musica Hebraic, an organization dedicated to the recovery of lost classical Jewish music. Now there is a real career.

But the best compliment I can pay Charles is to borrow from an old E.F. Hutton TV commercial: When he speaks or writes, people listen. His voice carries weight because he is cerebral in an age of celebrity, and substantive in a time of silliness. He speaks with authority, which is

another way of saying, he knows what he's talking about. His brand new book coming out is called "Things That Matter," not to be confused with my book from 15 years ago, *The Things That Matter Most*, from which, I'm sure, he took inspiration....

So it's my great honor and personal privilege tonight to present the William F. Buckley Jr. Award for Media Excellence to my colleague, my friend, and a dedicated American, Charles Krauthammer.

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER: Thank you all very much. It's good to be among the 53 percent. Thank you, Cal, for that introduction. There are nice introductions and there are kind introductions. The nice ones are where they list all your achievements, they have transcribed, and they send your mother a notarized copy. The kind one are where they leave stuff out. Cal's was distinctively unkind. So I've got some 'splaining to do.

First, the Mondale bit. It is true that I was once a speechwriter for Walter Mondale, and people ask me, 'How do you go from Walter Mondale to Fox News'? And I tell them the answer is simple, 'I was young once.' The other part he refused to leave out was the psychiatry part, and it is true that I used to be a psychiatrist -- technically I am still a licensed psychiatrist. In truth, I am a psychiatrist in remission. Haven't had a relapse in 25 years...

In both lines of work [political analysis and psychiatry], I deal every day with people who suffer from paranoia and delusions of grandeur. The only difference is the paranoids in Washington have access to nuclear weapons. That makes the stakes a little higher and the work a little more interesting.

I'm really happy to be here tonight. I'm honored to be among you, particularly at the Media Research Center who do God's work, namely, slaying heathens. There's not nearly enough heathen slaying going on in this town. And you do the work. I'm honored. I'm delighted by it. (Applause.) Never gotten applause on heathen slaying before. I'm gonna' have to try that line again. I'm very happy to be among old friends, but the truth be told, I'm just happy to be anywhere where Juan Williams can't interrupt me. I'll be sure to tell him how you feel. All right, enough of that, now my formal remarks.

Ladies and Gentleman, Mr. Brent Bozell, distinguished guests -- those three groups, by the way, are in descending order of size. (Laughter.) There's always a delay on that one, especially after cocktail hour. Look, we all know why I'm here. Yes, you're honoring me with the Buckley Award. It's a wonderful title, and I am truly honored to be associated in any way with the greatest journalist and author of our time. But let's get real. The real story here, as always in Washington, is somewhat different, and I'm here to break it.

Here's what happened. Brent recently read that *Inside Washington* is about to close shop after 25 years. With a lightning calculation in his head he realized, to his horror, that that means I have spent 1,200 consecutive Fridays with Nina Totenberg. Diana Niad had it easy. All she had to do was swim the shark-infested Florida straits. I have had to spend 25 years of Friday mornings with Mark Shields, Colby King, Evan Thomas, and the afore-mentioned Miss Totenberg. And without, mind you, even once having throttled anyone or having gone stark raving mad. That, ladies and gentlemen, is heroism. I can assure of that.

As a result of that discovery, a decision was made at the highest levels of the Media Research Center – meaning Brent in the shower – to actually change the nature of the award. This is not in your program. It was a late decision. So, I am now receiving and I humbly accept, your first annual Diana Niad Endurance Award, and like her, I did it without a shark cage.

Now I'm told by my staff that when Ted Cruz heard about this award, he immediately sent me a congratulatory message, wishing me 1,200 more Fridays with Nina Totenberg. Mark Levin sent a similar message. He suggested that if I were to retire, say, tomorrow, there might be a job opening with Walter Mondale.

It's been a tumultuous week in Washington, but looking at the broader picture I think we can all here agree on how indebted we are – we of the conservative media – to our beloved President, his entourage, and his acolytes. Never have so few given so much, material that is, to so many.

Now, some of you insist on calling the President a liberal. You know what a liberal is? He's someone who doesn't care what you do provided it's compulsory. But regarding Obama that really isn't true. I've been trying to argue for a long time now...Barack Obama is not a liberal, he's a social democrat. So, young folks ask me, what's a social democrat, a European social democrat? So I tell them the only way to really understand it is with a very important old story about Clement Attlee, who was the leader of the British Labor Party, and one of the quintessential social democrats.

The story begins after Winston Churchill was defeated in the election after the Second World War. He becomes leader of the opposition and Attlee becomes the Prime Minister. So, one day Churchill goes down to the men's room in the House of Commons. And there, standing alone at one of the urinals is Clement Attlee. Churchill goes all the way to the other end of the men's room, 15 stalls down, and Attlee is somewhat surprised. He looks over at Churchill and says, "Feeling a bit standoff-ish are we, Winston?" And Churchill says, "Not at all, my dear Clement. It's just that every time you see something large you want to nationalize it." I'm not even sure that story is true but I don't care. As we say in the column writing business, it's a story too good to check.

Incidentally, Churchill once called Attlee a sheep in sheep's clothing – that's apropos of nothing and I like it and I wanted to leave it with you, as a kind of party favor. I could go on, indeed I told Brent I intended to speak for 21 hours and 13 minutes. (Applause.) But I brought the wrong shoes (that's a dicey one).

So, in conclusion, allow me to thank you for this evening, and I want to say, especially to the young people here, keep your spirits up as we careen our way to Hell in a hand-basket. (Laughter.) Enjoy the ride and just remember, it's always darkest before dawn, and then it gets darker still. But do not lose your youthful optimism. Let me remind you of the words of my favorite pundit, Otto von Bismark, who once said, "God looks after idiots, children, drunkards, and the United States of America." That was 1890. Let's hope He [God] still does. Thank you all very much.