

Merrill's Favorite Quotes

"You're going to fall down, but the world doesn't care how many times you fall down, as long as it's one fewer than the number of times you get back up." (Aaron Sorkin, screenwriter and producer)

"Watch your thoughts for they become your words. Watch your words for they become your actions. Watch your actions for they become your habits. Watch your habits for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your destiny. What we think we become!"
(Margaret Thatcher, 10/13/1925 - 4/8/2013 "Iron Lady")

"This is not a "try hard league" – it's a "do good league."
(Mark Schlereth, former Washing Redskin Guard, now sportscaster (speaking of the NFL))
(To paraphrase: "Academic research is not a "try hard" job, it's a "do good" job.")

"Those who do not archive the past are condemned to retype it!" (Simson Garfinkel and Eugene Spafford)

As we know,
There are known knowns.
There are things we know we know.
We also know
There are known unknowns.
That is to say
We know there are some things
We do not know.
But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know.
We don't know.
(Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense)

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." (Aristotle)

There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Neither is independent of the other or more important than the other. Without art, science would be as useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science, art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery. The truth of art keeps science from becoming inhuman, and the truth of science keeps art from becoming ridiculous. - Raymond Thornton Chandler, writer.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors—we borrow it from our children."
-Native American Chief Seattle

Favorite new quote heard on Shark Tank tonight:

"Life is a cruel teacher. She loves to give you the test first and the lesson later"

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." (Maya Angelou)

"The real index of civilization is when people are kinder than they need to be."
(Louis deBernieres, novelist)

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." (Thomas Jefferson / Michael Shelly)

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."
(Albert Einstein)

"To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead."
- Thomas Paine, English-American political activist, writer, and revolutionary.

Metrics Matter. If you aren't measuring performance, you are just practicing. (unknown)

"I have failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."
(Michael Jordan)

"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved -- loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves." -Victor Hugo, novelist and dramatist

"Travel is always both a window and a mirror." (Andrew Solomon)

"When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other."
Eric Hoffer, writer/philosopher, quoted by Henshan Sun in *MIS Quarterly* (37:4), 2013, p. 1015,.

"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth, universal brotherhood and good will, and a constant and earnest striving toward the principles and ideals on which this country was founded." (Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat, author, and lecturer)

"The higher up you go, the more mistakes you are allowed. Right at the top, if you make enough of them, it's considered to be your style." -Fred Astaire, dancer, actor, singer, musician, and choreographer

"The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum -- even encourage the more critical and dissident views. That gives people the sense that there's free thinking going on, while all the time the presuppositions of the system are being reinforced by the limits put on the range of the debate." (Noam Chomsky, linguistics professor and political activist)

"Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't ... pays it.

"Compound interest is the most powerful force in the universe."

"Compound interest is the greatest mathematical discovery of all time." - Albert Einstein

"The Master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried."
(Stephen McCrainie (possibly originally an ancient guru from India?))

"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." (Winston Churchill)

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." (Alvin Toffler)

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."
(Andre Gide)

"If you want exploration, very often you much get out of the system, because the system is paralyzed by common assumptions. It's not the people selling candles who invented the light bulb." ...and... "It's interesting to see the difference between conquering and exploring. When you want to conquer, it's to have more. When you want to explore, it's to know more."

Bertrand Piccard, MD, Chairman and Pilot, Solor Impulse. First to circumnavigate the planet without fossil fuel (in 2016), grandson of Auguste Piccard, PhD (Physicist) who was the first to fly into the stratosphere (in a balloon) and see the curvature of the earth. Also son of Jacque Piccard, who went to the bottom of the Mariana Trench (11 km deep).

"All men should strive to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why."
- Author James Thurber

As I pilot, I appreciate a few of these favorites:

"Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, experience usually comes from bad judgment."

"You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck."

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself."

"There are old pilots and there are bold pilots. There are, however, no "old, bold pilots.""

"The three most useless things to a pilot are altitude above you, runway behind you, and "a tenth of a second ago.""

"Takeoffs are optional. Landings are mandatory."

“Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.”

“If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood, and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”

(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

“Cause it to Remain in a Relatively Uncomplicated State” (or “Keep in Simple Stupid” (KISS Principle))

“If you are successful, it is because somewhere, sometime, someone gave you a life or an idea that started you in the right direction.

Remember, also, that you are indebted to life

until you help some less fortunate person,

just as you were helped.”

Melinda French, now Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, from her High School Commencement speech (Ursuline Academy, Dallas, Texas).

"Past error is no excuse for its own perpetuation. Tragedy is a tool for the living to gain wisdom.....Now, as ever, we do ourselves best justice when we measure ourselves against ancient tests, as in the Antigone of Sophocles: 'All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only sin is pride.'" - Robert F Kennedy, probably in reference to his earlier support for bombing North Viet Nam during the JFK administration, which he later renounced.

“If life had a second edition, how I would correct the proofs.” (John Clare, poet)

“Enjoy the journal and try to get better every day. And don't lose the passion and the love for what you do.” (Nadia Comaneci, Olympic gymnast)

“Only those who risk going too far ...
find out how far they can go.”

(T.S. Eliot)