Born on the 5th of July

Letters on the Occasion of Leonard P. Liggio's 65th Birthday
Privately printed by
Pioneer Press of Terra Alta, WV
on behalf of
The Atlas Economic Research Foundation
of Fairfax, VA
August 1998
Preface

In the Spring of 1998 four friends of Leonard P. Liggio decided to recognize his upcoming 65th birthday. The four – John Blundell, Christine V. Blundell, Alejandro Chafuen, and Walter E. Grinder – tossed around a few ideas. A ‘roast’ was considered and quickly rejected. Next the idea of a festschrift was mulled over but also rejected: so many contributors would want to write for it that the resulting multi-volume work would sink the Titanic. Finally we settled on the idea of asking 100+ of his friends from around the world to write no more than 500 words of appreciation each, printed on their letterhead and further limited to just one side of 8½ x 11 (USA) or A4 (UK). The originals would be assembled in folders for LPL and a limited edition book containing all of them would be published.

Next came the job of assembling the list of entrants. We canvassed friends for ideas, “borrowed” his rolodex when he was away and even printed out his office e-mail log. We could have asked 1,000 people, and if we have offended anyone by not inviting them we apologize and hope they will understand. This is a small sample of a very large set.

Alejandro’s admirable colleague at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Joyce Schroeder, assembled all the addresses and mailed the invitation to contribute on June 1st. The replies were mailed to John at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, England, where his equally admirable colleague Patricia Donelson logged them in, checked for typos, returned problem cases for amendment, and generally shepherded the whole process to completion. And together, Joyce and Pat chased the few laggards.

So, Leonard, here is the result of our little covert operation: 154 people from 16 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America) have written 129 letters on the occasion of your 65th birthday. The originals in alphabetical order have been assembled in folders to be presented to you at the 30th International Workshop of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation at the Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, VA on Friday, August 28, 1998 just a few weeks after your July 5th birthday. A limited edition of just 500 copies is being printed, one for each signatory, one for each person attending the workshop, one each for selected libraries, one each for members of the Liggio family and a supply for your personal use.

JB/CVB/AC/WEG
Introduction

Reading the letters assembled here leaves one with a deep sense of awe. How can one man be so learned and so wise, so respected and so loved, but above all, so giving of himself to others?

Letter after letter tells story after story of lives changed by this man Liggio. F. A. Hayek was recently described as ‘the great architect of the revival of classical liberal ideas’. If Hayek is the great architect, then Leonard is surely the great builder, building a worldwide movement one life at a time. Or perhaps one career at a time is a more apt description of his modus operandi.

If we just had the benefit of Leonard’s scholarship then we would all be enriched – especially tour guides! And if we just had the benefit of Leonard’s strategic overview and tactical insights then we would also all be enriched. But add them together and throw in his openness, approachability and generosity and you get the powerful testaments which follow.

John Blundell
Alejandro Chafuen

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Paul Liggio for providing the photograph of Leonard aged 5 and the university graduation yearbook portrait; to Nicholas Jenkins for scanning both and doing much to enhance the former; and to David Nott and colleagues at IHS for preparing the later photographs.

Arthur Carroll, Mrs. Margit von Mises, and Leonard.

Leonard at the Institute for Humane Studies.
Top: Leonard sits with past and present presidents and officers of the Philadelphia Society.

Bottom: Leonard, flanked by Ralph Raico and Walter Grinder, is surrounded by IHS Summer Fellows.

Middle: Leonard meeting with the Pope in 1997.

Below: Leonard with Samuel Husband.
Top right: Leonard with Presidential candidate, Steve Forbes.

Middle left: Leonard and Gordon Tullock.

Below: Walter Grinder and Leonard at IHS.
# List of Contributors

*in Alphabetical Order*

(names are listed as they are signed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florin Aftalion</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chet Anderson</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digby Anderson</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas C. Atwood</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel F. Ayau</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John A. Baden</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy E. Barnett</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William W. Beach</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary S. Becker</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Beito</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Montgomery Blight</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Block</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine V. &amp; John Blundell</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David D. Boaz</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Boettke</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Bolivar</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Boudreaux</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Bradley Jr.</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon L. Brady</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Brady</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Love Brown</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Buchanan</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Butterworth</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Campbell</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean-Pierre Centi</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alejandro Chafuen</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory B. Christainsen</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Cilinski</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward H. Crane</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Kenneth Cribb Jr.</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Dennis</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Devine</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detmar Doering</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Dorn</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude P. Dougherty</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Edwards</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Ellig</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin J. Feulner</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacques Garelo</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Geddes</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
David Nott .................................................. USA
Michael Novak ........................................... USA
Frank O'Connell ........................................ USA
Gerald P. O'Driscoll Jr. .............................. USA
David H. Paaden ........................................ USA
Tom G. Palmer .......................................... USA
Ramon Parellada C. .................................. Guatemala (see Ayau)
George Pearson ......................................... USA
Steve Pejovich .......................................... USA
Pete & Ruth Peters ...................................... USA
Angelo M. Petroni ....................................... Italy
Roger Pilon ............................................... USA
Robert W. Poole Jr. ..................................... USA
Art Pope .................................................... USA
Ralph Raico ............................................... USA
Andrea Millen Rich .................................... USA
Sheldon L. Richman ................................... USA
Mario J. Rizzo .......................................... USA
Charles K. Rowley ..................................... USA
James Sadowsky ........................................ USA
Pascal Salin ............................................... France
Roberto Salinas Leon .................................. Mexico
David Schmidt ......................................... USA
George Selgin ........................................... USA
Jane S. Shaw ............................................. USA
Jeremy Shearmur ...................................... Australia
Robert A. Sirico ........................................ USA
Jack Sommer ........................................... USA
Donald Stewart Junior ............................... Brazil
Richard L. Stroup ...................................... USA (see Shaw)
Antony T. Sullivan ................................... USA
Lawrence Tal ............................................. The Netherlands
John Taylor ............................................... USA
Kenneth S. Templeton ................................ USA
Jon Basil Utley .......................................... USA
Michael van Notten ................................... Ethiopia
Karen Vaughn ........................................... USA
Bridgett G. Wagner ..................................... USA
Richard A. Ware ........................................ USA
Christian Watrin ....................................... Germany
Edwin G. West .......................................... USA
Carl-Johan Westholm .................................. Sweden
Lawrence H. White ..................................... USA
Walter E. Williams .................................... USA
Marty Zupan ............................................. USA
Leonard P. Liggio:
Photo taken for his
Georgetown University
Graduation Yearbook.

Leonard P. Liggio
Miami Beach, Florida.
Aged 5 years old.
Cher Leonard,

Je suis heureux de pouvoir contribuer, même modestement, à la célébration de ton soixante cinquième anniversaire. Comme le temps passe. Tu ne t’en souviens sans doute pas mais nous nous sommes rencontrés pour la première fois en Californie, lorsque j’ai visité l’Institute for Humane Studies. C’était le début de mon intérêt pour le libéralisme, il y a un quart de siècle environ, et tu as été l’un de mes premiers guides.

Par la suite, les Universités d’été à Aix-en-Provence et les meetings de la Mont Pèlerin Society m’ont donné l’occasion de te rencontrer plus souvent. Et nous avons eu tant de conversations passionnantes sur les origines du libéralisme, sur l’histoire du mouvement en France, sur ses progrès aux Etats-Unis et sur tant d’autres sujets encore. Le fait qu’elles aient souvent eu lieu autour d’une bonne table ne faisait qu’ajouter au plaisir de ta compagnie. Car on ne peut sans doute pas être libéral sans éprouver un goût intense pour la vie et ses bonnes choses.

Pendant toutes ces années, même en dehors de nos rencontres, tu as continué à m’aider en m’envoyant des articles, des références et des livres (je te dois, en particulier la découverte du « chaos »). Et aussi en répondant toujours promptement à mes questions. Pour tout cela, je ne peux te remercier assez.

Mais, j’espère de tout mon cœur que Dieu te prêtera encore de nombreuses années de vie heureuse et que tu les passera entouré de tes amis à continuer à te battre pour faire connaître et apprécier les idées qui nous unissent.

Mon Cher Leonard, reçois ici le témoignage de ma plus profonde et sincère amitié,

Florin Aftalion
In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

1998 July 1

Prof. Leonard Liggio
ATLAS ECONOMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on reaching your sixty-fifth year! I would like to take the opportunity afforded by this achievement to place on the record the vital role which you played in bringing the Minaret of Freedom Institute into being.

I was trained as an astrophysicist, but since high school had a profound interest in politico-economic matters. At the same time, as a practicing Muslim, I have always been keenly aware of the connection between ethics (both social and individual) and economic success. Your editorship of the Literature of Liberty series played an important part in educating me, as it did many others, in the deep and complex history of the evolution of our movement. I first met you at an Institute for Humane Studies seminar at Bates College in Maine. I met many fine people at that seminar, but you were the one who most impressed me both by the volume of your historical knowledge and the depth of your understanding of social systems. The seminal moment of that seminar as far as the future birth of the Minaret of Freedom Institute was when I told you that I thought that the role of Islam in the development of the ideas we had spent the week exploring was not sufficiently understood and that some day I should like to help correct that situation. You knew exactly what I meant and encouraged me to bring the idea up again when the time was ripe.

Beyond your encyclopedic history, your understanding of the importance of networking and your skill in facilitating it are the rare attributes that made our institute a reality. When the time was ripe for bringing the Muslim world back into the movement and for undoing the silly and yet dangerous stereotypes about Islam that were threatening world peace, you introduced me to Alex Chaufen resulting my participation in an ATLAS workshop at which I met other Muslim libertarians from Turkey and Bangladesh. At that conference I conceived the Minaret of Freedom Institute. The value of your encouragement and guidance in bringing that idea to birth cannot be overstated. I cannot conceive of a better mentor than you have been.

If you can keep up this good work for another 65 years, Leonard, you will have transformed the world.

May God grant you all good things,

Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, President
Dear Leonard:

The Beltway undercover rumor mill has it that you will soon reach the landmark 65. Congratulations, but don't you dare think about retiring or even tapering off. You are sorely needed in this intellectual war that you have been so deeply immersed in for so many years.

I have long believed that you have much that is valuable and very unique to offer in this ongoing struggle for men's minds; your rare, intimate knowledge of the issues and the leading scholars and intellectuals of those early years when there was no Atlas Economic Research Foundation, or free market literature, or economics seminars, or think tanks; and also your quiet, modest way of introducing an historical perspective in discussing the ideas and principles of individual liberty. I am certain that your influence in our "movement" has been far greater and deeper than we or even you could guess.

So, when it seems that the whole world is still rushing leftward, hang in there because where it really counts we are "gaining on 'em". And, keep on doing what you are doing as a dedicated educator and counsellor who believes in responsible liberty.

Best personal wishes,

Chet Anderson
20th June 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio,
Atlas Economic Research Foundation,
Fairfax,
Virginia

My dear Leonard,

Some years ago we had dinner in Washington. I was trying to find authors for a book, the first of a series to remind social analysts of the language of virtue. The book eventually appeared as The Loss of Virtue. It and its series successors helped establish the Social Affairs Unit in this field and marked its identity. The last in the series, Faking It, is currently in the UK best-sellers list.

The point is that none of this would have happened without the authors you pointed me to. Never has one man known so many intelligent and educated people. And your judgement of them has always been so fine. Later, after many dinners and much advice on 'names', I realised that most of these people are not just names but friends. You, Leonard are the centre of a vast set of friends.

I am sure they all, as I do wish you all the best for a very happy birthday. And welcome to old age - as you know that is a compliment. In the virtuous society both age and friendship are valued.

Yours,

Digby Anderson
July 8, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

Through the years, you have been a most faithful partner with the Resource Bank and indeed a tremendous resource to the conservative movement all by yourself. In my days of yore at the Latin school I attended, we gave awards for best "Scholar-Athlete." If conservatives gave an award for best "Scholar-Activist," you would get it! Thank you for all your hard work for all that is good. My sincere congratulations to you on achieving this milestone and I pray for many happy returns.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas C. Atwood  
Robert H. Krieble Fellow and  
Director, Coalition Relations
June 24, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
Fairfax, Virginia
U.S.A.

Dear Leonard:

At Francisco Marroquín University, Guatemala, we have been for many years beneficiaries of your patience, wisdom and support. We are grateful for the guidance and assistance you have given us every time we have requested it. You are a pillar on whom we often rely.

We know we are one of the many who seek your counsel, but are always treated by you, Leonard, as if we were the only ones making demands upon your time and brains. You are a true intellectual missionary.

We all love you down here, as we are sure you are loved all over the world.

Greetings!

UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO MARROQUÍN

Fernando Monterroso V.  Manuel F. Ayau

Giancarlo Ibáñez S.  Ramón Parellada C.
June 29, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

When I think of the ten most impressive people I have had the pleasure of knowing, you are high on the list. Not only have you added to my pleasures at many dinners, your early sprinkling of "holy water" on our work has helped immensely. Further, your erudition not only astounds me, I also find it delightful. You have, in brief, added substantially to the quality of my life. Thank you.

Are there empirical measures of these qualities? As Thomas Sowell remarked, "The things that economists best measure are not those which matter most". While hardly definitive, the following reflection is suggestive of my esteem.

When a person reaches my age, he budgets his time carefully. For time is a scarce resource and we are often oppressed by compelling opportunities. The opportunity to spend time with you is among the most attractive.

Leaving Montana is always tough. It's tough because I like it here a lot and because it's a long way from anywhere. Hence I do not always attend the Mont Pelerin or Philadelphia societies' meetings. I do, however, always examine the programs. If you are featured, I am more likely to attend. I always look forward to seeing and conversing with you.

Ramona joins me in wishing you well and wishing we were available to join in the celebration honoring you in Charlottesville. Rest assured our hearts are there.

With great respect and best wishes,

[Signature]

John A. Baden, Ph.D.
Chairman
Mr. Leonard Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

It is my great pleasure to contribute to the chorus singing your praises on this the 65th anniversary of your birth. By the time you read this, I know that you will be feeling like George Baily in "It's A Wonderful Life" for surely the international classical liberal movement would be like Pottersville were it not for you. It is very easy for me to identify how my life was changed markedly by your intervention.

In 1980, when I first went on the teaching market while still a criminal prosecutor in Chicago, I was unable to get a position. Indeed, I got only a very few interviews. Then you intervened and helped arrange the funding for a research fellowship at the University of Chicago Law School. When I went back on the market the next year, I had a great many interviews and two job offers, one of which was the one I accepted at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law. So, were it not for you, I would not be professor today.

Your second major intervention came when I was looking to take a sabatical in my seventh year of teaching to write a book on liberty. Once again, you helped arrange the funding that permitted me to spend a year at Northwestern University writing a manuscript that, as you know, was published only this year by Oxford University Press: *The Structure of Liberty: Justice and the Rule of Law.* [* = itals] So, were it not for you, this book would not have been written.

But these are just the most significant of the many ways you have helped me, not to mention the good times we have shared together starting from when I was just a law student: from arranging for me to be an N. Goteh Fellow at the Mont Pelerin Society meeting in Berlin, to guiding Beth and me through the airport on our first trip to France, to teaching together at innumerable IHIS summer seminars. The list is just too long to remember much less memorialize. You have always been the best of friends to me and to countless others. You have always been on my side.

In speaking of your "interventions," I used that word advisedly. Let others believe in who or what they wish. I believe in Leonard Liggio.

Warmest regards,

Randy E. Barnett  
Austin B. Fletcher Professor
It is not entirely impossible for a seventeen-year-old Kansan to connect to the international flow of ideas, but the obstacles are, shall we say, daunting. Imagine teachers in the 1960s who were largely indifferent to anyone thinking outside the covers of public school textbooks, or country churchmen who were openly hostile to ideas that lay even slightly beyond their own narrow learning. Imagine that, and then compound those obstacles first with a desire to connect to an almost totally forgotten intellectual tradition and second with a political environment growing daily more emotional as dissent spread over the Vietnam War even into the Midwest.

I cannot believe that alone I ever would have read anything written by Mises, Burke, or Bellow, or, indeed, built a life in part on a commitment to extending in some small way classical liberal thought. Equally, I cannot imagine my other life had I not met Leonard Liggio, who set those obstacles aside and mysteriously made that connection.

As everyone probably knows, Leonard is the hub of a vast network composed of otherwise lost souls. His would be the telephone call or the short letter that would appear at critical junctures suggesting new books to read or people to see. His would be the hidden influence that led to a conference invitation or to a note from some scholar who knew nothing about the person to whom he was writing except that Leonard thought it would be a good idea.

Connecting people of like minds means more to Leonard than graciously introducing them to each other and letting nature take its course. It means, I believe, a commitment to building (or rebuilding) classical liberal thought through young people and across generations by consistently suggesting new, interdisciplinary ways of understanding liberty.

If I am right, then I can explain why I have known Leonard these past thirty years largely through the Institute for Humane Studies, whose mission generally corresponds to Leonard’s. While my memories of him at I.H.S. largely are pleasant, I also recall frequent frustrations. I often thought Leonard lacked a point, particularly as a student cosponsor listening to him speak on some historical dimension of classical liberalism. Later I once asked him which of two dissertation topics I should write on. He suggested I write two dissertations, since both in his view were equally interesting. By the time I became the Institute’s president, I had a better understanding of Leonard’s mission, and everything made sense to me except his filing system. Let us say some mysteries will never be unraveled.

I am honored to recognize my debt to Leonard Liggio and to confess that I expect that debt to continue growing in the years to come.

William W. Beach
John M. Olin Senior Fellow in Economics
Director of the Center for Data Analysis

Officers
Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., President
Phillip N. Trubik, Executive Vice President
John Von Kamm, Vice President & Treasurer
Herbert E. Klawitter, Vice President
Robert G. Blatt, Vice President
Robert M. Bulter, Vice President
Michael G. Frantz, Vice President
Lawrence L. Garner, Vice President
Kim R. Holmes, Vice President
Bernard Lerman, Counselor
Adam Meyerson, Vice President
Robert R. Russell, Jr., Counselor

Board of Trustees
David R. Brown, M.D., Chairman
Richard M. Scaife, Vice Chairman
J. Frederic Rench, Secretary
Holland H. Coors
Michael Decker
Edwin J. Feulner, Jr.
Jerry Horn
Hon. John Wallis, Midland, Ill.
Hon. William Middele, Midland, Ill.

Honorary Trustees
Joseph Coors
Kathryn Davis, Ph.D.
Hon. Jack Eberl

214 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002-4999 • (202) 546-4600 • http://www.heritage.org
July 14, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4064 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

I am sorry I cannot help you celebrate your 65th birthday. I have known and admired you in your capacity as a ferocious but gentle and gracious fighter for freedom. You and others have made much progress in this battle during the past several decades, you should be proud of the impressive achievements.

But unfortunately a lot still remains to be done. I hope you continue with your important work, and on your 75th birthday full victory will be much closer at hand.

You should enjoy a well deserved rest on this day, reminisce and look back over your accomplishments during an impressive six and one half decades.

Many more birthdays in the future!

[Signature]

Gary
June 18, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Foundation
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Leonard:

Happy birthday! I still remember that wonderful IHS conference in 1981 when I heard one of your lectures.

You were my first, and best, role model of what a historian should be. You opened my eyes to the rich tradition of classical liberalism. Without our many conversations, I would have never even considered taking the research path I have chosen.

More than that, you have been a dependable friend. Whenever it looked like I could not continue in the profession, you were always there to throw me a life preserver. I look forward to knowing you, and benefiting from your kind and sage advice for many more years to come.

Your Friend and Student,

David Beito
Assistant Professor
July 1998

Dear Leonard,

I am delighted to have an opportunity of congratulating you on your sixty-fifth birthday.

As I write, I have in front of me a letter from you to me dated 4 April 1984 in which you refer to our discussions about the setting-up of the then proposed David Hume Institute in Edinburgh and in which you give me advice and send me encouragement in the venture.

I have kept that letter, I see, for over fourteen years, acknowledging in so doing how much I valued your support, insight and optimism at that time.

All good wishes and many happy returns,

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Montgomery Blight.
23 June 1998

Dear Leonard:

Happy 65th birthday!

It seems like only yesterday when I first met you, in Murray's living room, in the company of Joey Rothbard, Joe Peden, Larry Moss, Walter Grinder, Jerry Woloz, Mario Rizzo, Jerry O'Driscoll, Ron Hamowy, Ralph Raico, Roy Childs, Chuck Hamilton, Bob Smith and Frank Richter.

You all were, in some way, my immediate "family." If so, then others were my cousins, such as Jerry Tuccille, Karl Hess, Wilson Clark, Randy Barnett, John Hagel, Joe Salerno, Jim Sadowsky, Bill Evers, Jack High, Rich Ebeling, Don Lavoie, and others.

I don't know why this letter is taking me for a trip down memory lane to the early years of our relationship. I guess it is because we are all a bit older, now, than when I first met you in 1966, and it is interesting to reflect on the different paths taken by the people I met in association with you in those early days.

One of my fondest memories is of our association with Peace and Freedom, and our links with PL vis a vis the Trots. I remember your outburst, very rare for you, at one of the moderate socialists telling us that he couldn't recommend to his neighbor what you and Murray were advocating. You stated, forcefully, "Your neighbor is a jerk," and, under your breath, "and so are you." Magnificent.

We have come a long way since those days. In some ways, we have accomplished more than we could have ever imagined at that time, in some ways, I suppose, less. I guess I'm in the movement not so much for what we attain in the real world, although more would be nice, as for the sheer beauty of it, and the exhilaration of being part of something so splendid. Well, you are a part of that for me, and I always appreciate it.

Leonard, best wishes for your birthday.

Your friend,

Walter Block
30th June 1998

Professor Leonard P Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax  
VA 22030-6812  
USA

Dear Leonard,

What can we say about the man who used to drive Ayn Rand right up the wall? You drove her totally mad, not by disagreeing with her, but rather by falling asleep on her sofa!

How easy it is to visualise: Murray Rothbard wide awake and taking it all in; Joey Rothbard banished to the kitchen to read atheist tracts; and you Leonard fast asleep on the sofa!

But what heady days in your youth, to be there when the first box of Atlas Shrugged landed in New York; to work for Taft, to help found ISI (the Intercollegiate Society of Individualists note), to know von Mises and his circle and to help FA "Baldy" Harper set up IHS.

We're told that in the 'sixties some libertarians wore buttons bearing the words "Murray knows everything" while others wore ones that read "And Leonard knows the rest". You and John were browsing together in a New York bookstore in 1975 when John pointed excitedly to the new Rothbard book Concealed In Liberty, Volume 1: A New Land, A New People - The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century. Had you seen this new book, John asked? You smiled, picked up the book, opened it to the title page and pointed to the by-line. It read not "Murray Rothbard" but rather "Murray Rothbard with the assistance of Leonard P Liggio" and in the Preface of this volume and also volumes II, III and IV we read:

"But my greatest debt is to Leonard P Liggio, of City College, CUNY, whose truly phenomenal breadth of knowledge and insight into numerous fields and areas of history are an inspiration to all who know him. Liggio's help was indispensable in the writing of this volume, in particular his knowledge of the European background."

Many, many books have seen the light of day with the assistance of Leonard P Liggio. Many, many young careers have soared with the assistance of Leonard P Liggio. And many, many minds have been steered to more productive pastures with the assistance of Leonard P Liggio.

Thank you for everything.

Christine V Blundell  
Director  
Student Programmes

John Blundell  
General Director

P.S. We've never believed this business about your date of birth being July 5th. If ever a man was meant to be born on the 4th it is you.
June 17, 1998

DAVID BOAZ
Executive Vice President

Prof. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive #103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on your 65th birthday. You could retire now, if you trust the Social Security system to survive.

Your commitment to liberty and depth of historical knowledge have been an inspiration and a benefit to generations of libertarians. I remember very fondly your many talks at the late, lamented Cato Institute Summer Seminars. Most of the speakers gave the same talk year after year. But we used to try to trip you up by changing your topic every year, from "The Role of Ideas in History" to "The Evolution of Capitalism" to "Libertarian Ideology in America" to "Colonialism and Nationalism" to "Constituencies for Liberty." Not only were you unfazed by the changes, you amazed us every year by delivering each lecture without notes and with total command of the subject.

I remember once that as a participant left after one of your lectures, he said to me, "Wow, that was fascinating! I never heard any of that stuff in college." I asked him, "Then what makes you think it's true?" He just laughed confidently (rather like Howard Roark). Obviously something—whether it was Cato's imprimatur or your own magisterial authority—made him certain that now he had heard the real story. As your students and protegés spread throughout the universities of America and Europe, I hope more college students are hearing the real story.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone, and thank you for your years of dedication and commitment to individual liberty, civil society, and the rule of law.

Sincerely,

David D. Boaz

DD8/kr
15 July 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

I want to wish you a happy 65th birthday. You have meant so much to so many people within the classical liberal community — teachers, scholars and activists alike — that it is hard to know what to say except to offer a heartfelt thank you. Over the years you have provided me with intellectual encouragement and professional advice as well as introducing me to other individuals within the classical liberal community from whom I have learned so much over the years. I cannot imagine the international classical liberal movement without Leonard Liggio as its main ambassador.

Rosemary and I wish you a happy birthday and many more to come.

Best wishes,

Peter J. Boettke
Department of Economics
June 18, 1998

Dear Leonard:

Your 65th anniversary reminds me of a historical fact: that we are people of the “Middle Age” trying to bring about a renaissance by promoting Classical Liberalism, in order to improve the 21st Century. What a challenge!

Twenty years ago our paths crossed for the first time and you changed the direction of my personal goals. I had plans to become a novelist, instead I became a think-tank director. Sometimes when I am in the middle of the every day turmoil of actions and reactions I ask myself: how this could have happened? How is it that I could leave the quietude of my studio to become an active crusader in the war of ideas? The answer is Leonard Liggio.

The scholarship that you offered me to attend the interdisciplinary seminar at Carrol College opened a new path, that of Liberty. You introduced me to Adam Smith, Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich von Hayek, Murray Rothbard, Milton Friedman, Henry Hazlitt and many others. Their ideas provoked a disclosure in my mind and developed the necessity to rescue the world from the hands of socialists and dictators.

Soon after the seminar, I attended my first Mont Pelerin Society meeting in Stanford. Once again, you introduced me to the most wonderful people I have ever met. I have learned from you and them to walk my talk.

Happy birthday Leonard! I am only one of the seeds that you have planted in a big forest. Many trees have grown thanks to you. You have been very transcendental in the history of modern times. We admire you and treasure your friendship deep in our hearts.

My warmest regards,

Carolina Bolívar
President
29 June 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Foundation
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

You are legendary for knowing everything and everyone. This fact -- and it is a fact -- means that someone still awaiting his fortieth birthday must be especially unassuming when congratulating a legend on his 65th birthday. The reason is that luminaries of your own rank will be among those of us extending well-wishes to you.

I content myself to write briefly from the heart. You inspire me. Not only is your knowledge vast, but your life-long commitment to promoting liberal scholarship and liberal ideals is unparalleled. For my generation of classical liberals, you are 'the movement'. You seem to attend all of the important conferences, to have just spent the evening with one or several Nobel-prize-winning scholars, and to be ceaselessly on the telephone forging links between senior scholars and promising upstarts. In your spare time (conjured up by some mysterious means whose secret I covet) you teach, lecture worldwide, carry on extensive correspondence, and write important scholarly papers. Your presence is so immense that I, for one, suffer panic attacks if I try to imagine classical liberalism without you.

Happy birthday, Leonard. Have countless more -- for your sake and for ours.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Don Boudreaux
June 13, 1998

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on the occasion of your 65th year and for your contributions to liberty with your writings, lecturing, and associations with the Center for Libertarian Studies, Institute for Humane Studies, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, and other organizations.

We go back nearly 25 years, beginning with the Institute for Humane Studies seminars in the 1970s and your visits to Houston in the early 1980s when you would lecture to small gatherings on history in the classical liberal tradition. Your talks were a great way to learn revisionist history and sparked some interest and relationships that bore fruit in many unexpected ways. One example concerned my introduction to an occasional visitor to your lectures, the late J. Howard Marshall II of New Deal fame. I invited him to a book signing party for my The Mirage of Oil Protection, and from this association I became involved with his autobiography, Done in Oil. I believe this book will go down in history as one of the most thoughtful recollections of the U.S. oil industry in the 1930-1970 period, and it all began with your seminar.

Regarding your writings, one of my favorite essays was a Center for Libertarian Studies pamphlet of many years ago, “Why the Futile Crusade?” This essay was on foreign policy, but it had a title and theme that applies to so many other areas of government activism. When I read the latest about the government’s war on drugs or renewable energy programs, I immediately ask the proverbial Liggian question, “Why the Futile Crusade?”

Your writings on government-business relations, or corporativism, are also germane to many current issues, including the global warming debate. The next generation of business executives must have a free market ethic like many now claim to have an environmental ethic, and your documentation of the negatives of political Capitalism explains why.

I have always marveled at your photographic memory and ability to give lectures with nary a note card. At least Mises had a tiny note card tucked away for his talks! Your mental gymnastics must have kept you out of the real gym, but that’s another story.

And lastly, Leonard, for the record I never took it personally when we would be conversing and I suddenly realized that you had gently closed your eyes and were somewhere way off in classical liberal dreamland. (I hoped you were there, at least.) Sometimes it was during what I thought was very interesting conversation about my latest deeds for liberty, but it did remind me of what your daily fare was in a pinnacle position in the movement. I was tempted to morph into statist rhetoric just to see what your REM sleep threshold really was, but like a gentleman I continued unabated until your graceful reentry.

Your friend and admirer,

Robert L. Bradley, Jr.
Dr. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on this milestone in your life. Let me begin by saying that I have a great respect for your learning and personal qualities. I also have great admiration for you as a person. I admire your immense knowledge of history, especially the history of freedom in the West and the conditions under which individual freedom and responsibility have flourished and been stifled. The strength of your convictions is unmistakable -- the expansion of individual choice and the protection of property rights well grounded with individual responsibility. We have learned much from your work and your example.

With my best regards for many happy returns!

Sincerely,

Gordon L. Brady, Ph.D., M.S.L.
Director, Law & Economics Center
Friday, July 10, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

This splendid project hatched by Alex and John provides me with the opportunity to record my deep appreciation of all you have done in the cause of individual liberty for well over forty years. And I look forward to you making your unique and immensely valued contribution for many years to come.

On a personal note, I wish to express my gratitude for your kindness and generosity and my admiration for your deep learning and encyclopedic knowledge. You may remember that we first met at a Cato conference in the summer of 1979. Since then I have valued your friendship, counsel, and scholarship, especially during my residence in Fairfax these past six years, and I look forward to that valued friendship and to good conversation in the years ahead.

Yours,

Mark

Mark Brady
June 15, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
ATLAS ECONOMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia  22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I congratulate you on your 65th birthday, and I hope that you will forgive us all for being so good at keeping secrets from you in order to honor you in this way.

Your valuable scholarship has been a legend in certain circles for a very long time, but I suspect your assistance to other scholars may not be as well known. I certainly appreciate everything you have done to help me in that regard, and I know that there are many others who feel the same way. It is the assistance that scholars give and receive from one another that creates the community of scholars that is so important to our moral development as human beings.

Thank you so much for the tremendous contributions you have made to the cause of human liberty and, also, to human kindness. I can think of no more important legacy.

Sincerely,

Susan Love Brown
9 June 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Lecnard:

I join others in extending my best wishes. But I am sure that letters like mine have special value since they make you feel very junior at 65. And I guarantee that my letter is unique in the sense that no one else can say that only your calming influence prevented me from a criminal career, with consequences.

As Satchel Paige said, "Don't look back; they may be catching up on you."

Onward and upward.

Sincerely,

Jim Buchanan

/bht
July 16, 1998

Dear Leonard,

It is a great pleasure to wish you well at this auspicious moment of your life. Little did I suspect when we first met at the Hunan Chinese Restaurant on Capitol Hill so many years ago that our paths would interlace as they have. And how pleased I am that they have.

To be sure, I greatly appreciate the benefit of your sound practical counsel gently given here and there over the last several years. Even more, I cherish your generous gift of yourself, your willingness to sit back and chat in the most unusual circumstances and surroundings – airport lounges come particularly to mind, as do hotel lobbies – always with gentleness as well as with perspicacity. Your ability to listen is a marvelous gift, one that puts others readily at ease and furthers the kind of interesting, thoughtful discussion that is such an attractive aspect of your person and for which I and your other friends so admire you.

How good it has been to be part of your increasing exposure to things Middle Eastern and Islamic, not least because in the process I have learned much from you – about people and how to interact with them, as well as about the merits of a somewhat more historic approach to matters so dear to my heart. And in coming to know you better in this venture, I have also been in great admiration of your quiet, but obviously deep, religious commitment.

These and similar thoughts about your uniqueness and the significance of your friendship come to mind as I anticipate the marvelous celebration in store for you in August. Though a special event, one feted in an extraordinary way, it should be understood as merely an excuse for people to say things they might otherwise not find a means of expressing. So may you enjoy the event, delight in the occasion that gives rise to it, and take pleasure in learning how much I and others appreciate your gentle person and your admirable learning!

With sincere good wishes for many, many happy returns,

Charles E. Butterworth
The Philadelphia Society
11620 Rutan Circle, Jerome, MI 49249-9530
517/688-5111 (Fax) 517/688-5113 (E-Mail) phillysoc@dmcl.net

July 11, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, #103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812

Dear Leonard,

It is with great relish that I write this letter. Only Saint Cecilia could do justice to your cherubic nature. I choose my words carefully since cherubs are not only known for their innocent faces, but are part of the second order of angels "distinguished by knowledge."

Your name is not Legion for you would never use the force that such a name suggests. But, you are a one-man Philadelphia Society, bringing together with grace and wisdom so many different factions and fractious personalities.

The contributions that you made to The Philadelphia Society as President are only a fraction of what you have meant to us over the years. Two precedents were established by you. You were the first President to serve two consecutive terms—there were some persons who were adamantly chiding us, "No third term!" We knew that you would understand this.

Second, I have considered your work so important that I have created a special part of the homepage of The Philadelphia Society to your speeches and articles, including there the Tribute which we made to you when you retired as President. In this manner we can share you with the world.

On behalf of everyone at The Philadelphia Society, we thank you for your patience, wisdom, and solid good works.

Yours truly,

Bill Campbell
Secretary

Bill Campbell's office: 3914 Broussard, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (H) 504/927-2042 (Fax) 504/924-4727 (E-Mail) SPBL37A@prodigy.com
Dear Leonard,

With great personal respect, I am addressing to you these lines on the occasion of your sixty-fifth anniversary.

While I am writing these words, I am thinking first of this Colloquium I have attended in Brussels (Belgium), dated December 1980, which dealt with "Currency Competition". I still remember it very clearly because for the first time I met both Professor Hayek and Leonard Liggio. What impressed me most was your deep knowledge of the French history of economic thought and especially of the French classical liberal authors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From this intellectual event, as I happened to have been invited to attend various seminars, colloquia and meetings, I discovered how much anyone concerned with history of classical liberalism acknowledges instantly the debt to you.

I would like to add that over the years I have been used to welcoming you in Aix-en-Provence at least twice a year, within the Centre d'Analyse Economique. There, the students and scholars around me became more and more acquainted with you. Not only are you giving inspiring and influential lectures to new generations, but also you are constantly paying attention to their respective studies and research.

Propelled by keen curiosity and perceptiveness, you are so effective in spreading documents, papers, articles and books from everywhere, in giving advice, in connecting people across the whole world, in introducing ideas and authors, that we are all greatly indebted to you. In the sense of the word, you are acting as an entrepreneur on the market for ideas, always and without break defending human freedom. Yes, the man of whom I am speaking is endowed with high moral standards and is extremely knowledgeable.

On behalf of all of us at the Centre d'Analyse Economique, I do wish to once again extend to you our deepest thanks for your wonderful work and to send our warm congratulations for your Anniversary.

Jean-Pierre CENTI
Directeur du Centre d'Analyse Economique
July 8, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

On the occasion of your 65th birthday, I know many of your friends will be sharing their stories about the incessant flow of articles, clippings, books, and e-mails received from you. Those of us who have the privilege to be close to you, a walking library, are blessed with that same information largesse, but multiplied exponentially. In spending time with you, one sees that you are always ready to lend a helping hand, always willing to spend precious time with friends in pain and friends in joy. Like the Good Samaritan, you are generous also in the way you choose friends.

Melanie, my wife, had a chance to help you arrange and “dispatch” some of the papers you accumulated after many years of productive life. She also profited, but soon, like me, she too ran out of shelves at home to accommodate your gifts. My kids ask me why we call you “Uncle Leonard”; the truth is because, from the first time we began spending time together, you have been part of my family.

It does not take much time for you to show your generosity. I first met you during the Mont Pelerin Society meeting in 1980, which I thought was going to be my last. Baffled by the seemingly Keynesian arguments espoused by many speakers, I shot one question after another criticizing their advocacy of government controls of demand, monopolies, and monetary supply. My libertarian salvo was going to be my goodbye. Not so.

Each day, usually in the afternoons, I saw a couple of men standing on the left wing of the Stanford auditorium, looking like the Laurel & Hardy or Abbot & Costello of the free-market movement. Afterwards I learned that was you and Murray Rothbard. Towards the middle of the meeting, you called me aside, introduced yourself and Murray, and said “you are one of the few who makes sense here.” Those were the first few, very generous words I heard from you. I did not give up. The next day Manuel Ayau and Leonard Read nominated me for membership and rather than leaving I became part of this international liberal family.

After moving to the States, I began receiving your informative calls. In one you introduced me to Robert Sirico, which led to a relationship which later produced the abundant intellectual and spiritual fruits of the Acton Institute. While you were at IHS and I at Atlas, you stopped by in my office daily to “chat,” which for you is a euphemism for teaching and learning. When we were looking for a vice-president at Atlas and had an opportunity to attract you we jumped at the occasion. In your humbleness, you are usually the first staff member to respond to my requests. You have since blessed us with countless introductions, teaching us diplomacy, history, culture, and patience.

I still find it awkward to say that you work for me. You work for a much larger cause: the cause of human freedom. Freedom lived, knowingly or not, under the spirit and splendor of truth.

Dr. Alejandro Chafuen, President and CEO
President and CEO

4084 University Drive, Suite 103, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812 Tel: 703/934-6969 Fax 703/352-7530
E-Mail: atlas@atlas-fdn.org Website: http://www.atlas-fdn.org
24 June 1998

TO: Mr. Leonard Liggio
     Atlas Economic Research Foundation
     Fairfax, Virginia

FROM: Professor Gregory Christainsen

Dear Leonard:

I am proud to be able to contribute to this volume. However, if I tried to recite all
of the achievements of which you can be proud, I would need several volumes.

You perhaps know the Nishiyama/Hayek anecdote. Hayek was working in his
office. Nishiyama asked him if he (Hayek) was aware that very few people were reading
what he was writing. Hayek reportedly replied that he was not writing for this century, he
was writing for the next one.

When the histories are written in the next century about the revival of classically liberal
ideas, you will merit much more than a footnote. While others wallowed in despair
about the prospects for liberty, you did something about it. I know of no one who has
done more in a very practical way to promote scholarship on classically liberal themes.

It is an honor to have spent at least a modest amount of time with one of the great
champions of freedom. And such a nice guy, too! Here’s to the hope that the progress of
capitalism will enable you to continue on for at least another 65 years!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory B. Christainsen
August 28, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812

Dear Leonard,

I am so happy to write to you as you celebrate your 65th birthday. God certainly did wonderful work on that special day.

During the past twelve years you have been a source of inspiration and help to me in my duties as University Chaplain. You helped to establish our Ellis Lecture in 1986. Your interest in providing quality speakers from around the world has helped develop the faith and intellectual life of our students. You have given your time to be among our students here at the Chapel and have dedicated your life to teaching.

I am most grateful for your friendship, and advice. You are a wise, learned man of good counsel and faith. You have such academic stature and knowledge and also have the human touch of compassion and joy. You live the virtues of humility and compassion. Thank you Leonard, for the care and concern you provide for so many people, colleagues, students, family and friends.

I rejoice in this special birthday and thank God for the opportunity to share in your life the past 12 years.

Happy Birthday!

Love & Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski
July 13, 1998

Edward H. Crane
President

Prof. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive #103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

The good news is that you are now qualified to receive Social Security. The bad news is that we’re privatizing it and the best way to finance the transition is simply to screw everyone 65 and older, since your generation is tiny compared to those of us who follow. I trust you’ll understand.

In any event, it’s really not permissible for the Pied-Piper of Liberty to even contemplate giving up his globetrotting responsibilities. In all seriousness, Leonard, I truly admire your indefatigable good spirits and irrepressible optimism that there is a libertarian hidden somewhere in all of us. I doubt that anyone has personally inspired more freedom fighters from more diverse corners of the globe than have you. Being an intellectual mentor to some of the brightest, most committed libertarian scholars in the world must be a source of enormous satisfaction to you.

I will always remember fondly your involvement with Cato, ranging from your heroic editorship of The Literature of Liberty to your starring role at our summer seminars where you would trace the modern term limits movement back to its roots in the Paleolithic Age. I’m proud to have such a great friend of liberty a friend of mine.

Warm regards,

Edward H. Crane

EHC/kr
June 30, 1998

Dr. Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Dr., Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

On behalf of the entire ISI family, I want to convey our heartfelt congratulations to you on the occasion of your sixty-fifth birthday.

Many are perhaps unaware of the historic connection that exists between you and ISI. Your diligent pursuit of truth, in an age gripped by ideology, took you from your early days at Georgetown College under the mentorship of Charles Callan Tansill, through the Taft years as a member of Youth for Taft and then as a regional director of its successor group Students for America. An early association with the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) led to a friendship with Human Events editor and ISI founder, Frank Chodorov. Through your association with Chodorov, you founded at Georgetown College in 1953—the year of ISI’s founding—the very first ISI college chapter.

From its very beginnings, then, ISI has been honored by its association with you. As this recital demonstrates, you were literally present at the creation of the conservative movement.

You have pioneered such an effective approach to mentoring young thinkers that ISI has adopted many of your techniques. You have been unmatched in effecting a cross fertilization of ideas between American and European intellectuals; you have helped to create new institutions of freedom throughout the Western hemisphere. Your role in shaping and extending the legacy of liberty for future generations is a cause for celebration.

All of us at ISI thank you for your dedication and service to the cause of freedom, and wish you—Mr. Chairman Emeritus, First ISI Chapter—a wonderful sixty-fifth birthday.

Sincerely,

T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.
President
June 23, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

How long have I known you? When did we meet? I have no idea. But I am sure you do, for you remember everything. Well it seems like I have known you forever. And we have been in this business a long time together—the measure of your seniority being that when you were organizing the youth for Taft, I was riding around with a big Taft for President button on my tricycle.

Who would have predicted the great progress of the cause of Liberty around the world since those days? You probably. For optimism and good cheer have always been characteristic of your life and work, and a factor in your great success. You have been one of the best of the big tent liberals, building coalitions, encouraging everyone to become a friend of liberty, excusing the lapses from principle of others, while always maintaining your own integrity. I often think of you like Rudyard Kipling’s Kim, “a friend to all the world.” And the world has responded in turn, enjoying your friendship and support, profiting by your example and from your knowledge. In our circle, when someone says: “Ask Leonard, he’ll know,” everyone knows who is being talked about, and everyone knows that he will know too.

And so Leonard, I take the greatest pleasure in wishing you all the best on the occasion of your 65th birthday. May you, together with your far-flung circle of friends, continue to uphold the cause of Liberty well on into the future.

Yours sincerely,

William C. Dennis
Senior Liberty Fund Fellow
August 28, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

Tempus omnia revelat, and you can take pride that the divulgence is of a lifetime of proper performance and intellectual achievement.

Your devotion to liberty has been the foundational idea for your life's work. Consistent with our angelic teacher's views, it has been a doctrine for you in harmony with truth, right and kindness. You have held the values high and lived them too. Congratulations as you celebrate this milestone along the road to the abiding reward. I am certain that many additional landmarks await that will outshine all that has already been accomplished.

Personally, I must record my debt to you for supporting the conference I directed on John Locke, at the University of Maryland, and the book that resulted from it, Does Freedom Work? I appreciate this so much, as well as your advice, support and insight over the years since then. You have been an invaluable colleague and a good friend.

We all appreciate your years of service to the cause of liberty through the Atlas Foundation and the Institute for Humane Studies. So many generations of young (and now not so young) academics and intellectuals owe so much to you directly and, perhaps, even more indirectly through what these all have contributed to the nation and the world.

Congratulations on the accomplishments, thanks for the service and best wishes for more of the same in the future.

With sincere appreciation and deep friendship, I am

Respectfully yours,

Donald Devine

4805 IDLEWILDE ROAD, SHADYSIDE, MARYLAND 20764
919 PRINCE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
(703) 683-6833 • FAX (703) 684-7642 • (301) 261-5644
Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Königswinter, 28 August 1998

Go where he will,
the wise man is at home.
(Emerson)

Dear L.P.L.,

happy birthday to you! 65 years young - that leaves you with a lot of time to write your „Memoirs“! I don’t know whether you have started to write them (or even have thought about doing so), but I am looking forward to them optimistically. If there is a walking dictionary or „Who’s Who“ of the libertarian world, then it is you. If there is a head and heart of the libertarian world, then it is you. Thanks for all the help you gave to me and, of course, thousands of other libertarians all around the globe during many years. Without your warm-hearted support and without your enormous knowledge our world would be a poorer place.

Best wishes

[Signature]

Margrethenhof, Königswinterer Straße 409, D-53639 Königswinter,
Postanschrift: D-53637 Königswinter,
Telefon 02223/701-215, Telefax 02223/701-216, e-mail: libins@o.com

Das Liberales Institut der Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung
L.P. Liggio

8 June 1998

Dear Leonard:

Happy 65th birthday to one of the world’s leading liberals! You should be proud of your great influence on hundreds of young scholars over the years. I just met Byeong-Ho Gong, who attended the Atlas workshop in Turkey. He has caught the freedom virus and is now building a market-liberal institute in Seoul. His energy and zest for a free society offer yet another example of how you and Atlas are changing the world for the better.

Leonard, it’s been a great pleasure and an honor working with you and having you as a friend. I value your advice, respect your firm commitment to learning, and admire the effort you have given to sharing your great wealth of knowledge with numerous individuals around the world. But most of all, I respect your integrity and kindness over the many years I have had the good fortune of knowing you.

I wish you many more years of productive activity and success in the fight for freedom.

Cordially,

James A. Dorn
Leonard Liggio

Leonard Liggio is an impressive figure in many respects. Cordial, respectful, always warm, his old-world manners do not for long go unnoticed. Upon getting to know him, one is soon aware that he is in the presence of an exceptional mind. Steeped in history, Liggio’s knowledge of the past is matched only by a similarly sweeping global outlook. An admirer of Friedman and von Hayek, he is equally versed in the writings of Aristotle, Cicero, and Seneca. He may be an economist, but deep down he is a philosopher, one that Aristotle would recognize as having moved beyond "household management" to that of national and even global economics. No slave to any one theory, his empirical habits lead him to ever new insights and prescriptions. His knowledge of how wealth is created is complemented by an awareness of the affluent’s obligations.

Worthy of commendation is his loyalty to parents, family traditions, and to those outlooks, religious and secular, which have shaped the West. To create another Leonard Leggio, one would need access to an all too rare educational structure, one which begins with the classical Greek and Roman authors, includes the Gospels, the Fathers, and commentators on their work through every century to the present. With that knowledge, Leggio is au courant everywhere his interests take him, from Austria to Chile. Understanding the mind set and economies of countries as diverse as Croatia and Indonesia, he knows what is possible and what is not.

When we do not know what else to say about a truly catholic intellect, we denominate it "Renaissance." Leonard Liggio is quietly knowledgeable, without an ostentatious display of learning, linguistic skill, or worldly experience.

I can not imagine his retiring. He will continue to write and lecture, perhaps at a greater pace, once shorn of administrative responsibility. One can only be grateful for the privilege of knowing him, and I am pleased to wish him well in his retirement years.

Jude P. Dougherty, Dean
School of Philosophy
The Catholic University of America
June 25, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

I am delighted to join your many friends and colleagues around the world in extending my warmest congratulations on your 65th birthday. And I want to add my heartfelt thanks for your many generous and thoughtful acts through the years.

You never said "no" when I came to you for help and counsel. Never, not once. I'm sure that has been the experience of all your friends which has to be a record and deserving of inclusion in Mr. Guiness's book.

Most recently, when we were discussing my political history of the modern conservative movement, you pointed out the strong influence of Herbert Hoover on Senator Robert Taft, a central figure in my book. I was aware of the Hoover-Taft connection, but your insightful analysis led to a visit to the Hoover Presidential Library and more proper emphasis on Hoover's important role in the conservative movement in the 1940s and 1950s. In other words, you significantly strengthened my book with your suggestion.

And then there have been the times when I was looking for grant money or needed guidance on the contributions of the libertarians or just wanted to talk conservative politics.

Leonard, you have been a valued friend and a wise counselor. Anne joins me in wishing you the very best in the years to come. May God bless you and keep you.

Sincerely,

Lee Edwards
Senior Fellow
July 11, 1998

Prof. Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
Fairfax, VA

Dear Leonard:

When I heard you will soon reach the age of 65, one thought immediately entered my head: "Surely Leonard is anticipating with glee the prospect of collecting his hard-earned Social Security benefits." In contrast to scoffers such as Milton Friedman and Barry Goldwater, who used to cast aspersions on Social Security, you'll sleep well at night knowing that this is a program that works for YOU!

More seriously, I hope you put off any thought of retirement for a good while. It is quite rare to find someone who actually does know something useful about everything and everybody of interest to people in classical liberal/libertarian/free market circles. It is even more rare to find someone who is widely liked and respected as a decent human being among all the major factions in those circles. I don't know how you do it, but keep on!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jerry Ellig
Senior Research Fellow
Dr. Leonard P. Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, #103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

On behalf of all of us at The Heritage Foundation, happy birthday!!!

On a personal note, your counsel and advice, as well as your leadership of the conservative movement in so many areas, has been a real inspiration to me. In the Philadelphia Society, the Mont Pelerin Society, the Acton Institute, ISI, Atlas, IHS, and here at Heritage, we have all grown to depend on your sound judgment and keen instinct to do what is both good and what is right.

We look forward to many more years of close association with you in the ongoing war of ideas.

Linda joins me in wishing you a very happy birthday.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D.  
President

EJF/ms

---

214 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002-4999 • (202) 546-4600 • http://www.heritage.org
Mon cher Leonard,

Laisse-moi d'abord te remercier pour les bons conseils de diététique que tu m'as donnés. Grâce à toi, et à la gastronomie française, j'entrerai à tes côtés dans l'histoire de la pensée libérale comme l'un des poids lourds les plus estimés.

Heureusement, la courbe de notre amitié n'a jamais cessé de suivre celle de nos tours de taille : toujours en croissance exponentielle.

Comment ne pas être ton ami ? Nous nous sommes rencontrés pour la première fois à Rome en 1980. Ma première surprise a été de m'apercevoir qu'en dépit de ton nom, qui évoquait irrésistiblement la mafia sicilienne, tu ne savais pas trois mots d'italien. Malgré cette courte déception, je n'ai eu qu'enrichissement et plaisir à te connaître.

Pour le plaisir, il y a eu nos longues expéditions touristiques ensemble : le tour de Corse, l'escalade des temples Maya et les baignades au milieu des crocodiles, l'éclatement d'un pouc sur l'autoroute alors que je roulais seulement à 120 miles, les repas en Allemagne avec l'incurable "sauce brune", la bouillabaisse des Issambres.

Pour l'enrichissement, il y a tout ce que tu as fait pour l'Université d'Été et IHS Europe. C'est grâce à toi que l'Université d'Été a pris cette dimension internationale qui a fait sa renommée. Tu as amené à Aix en Provence les plus grands noms de la science économique et de la pensée libérale. Tu as été honoré de la médaille d'or de la Ville d'Aix ; faible récompense pour ta présence à 16 Universités d'Été sur 21, pour ta lecture, pour ta clarté et la profondeur de tes propos.

Tu as été aussi à l'origine de la création d'IHS Europe. Tu as appris aux Français et aux Européens l'importance et les techniques de la formation des jeunes universitaires, et tu es toi-même participant depuis 1989 à une vingtaine de séminaires. Tes qualités d'historien, de savant, et surtout d'homme à écouter des jeunes, capable de les guider et de les stimuler, ont fait merveille. Je t'admire pour savoir ce qui est bon pour chacun, l'article ou le livre qu'il doit lire, la personne qu'il doit rencontrer. Ton réseau mondial d'amitiés n'est pas surprenant, parce que tu ne cedes pas de penser aux autres, et de les aider. Tu le fais avec tellement de spontanéité, de générosité, d'efficacité que l'on finit par trouver cela tout naturel...

Enfin, et non le moindre, je te suis reconnaissant pour m'avoir associé aux efforts que tu mènes depuis si longtemps pour démontrer la convergence entre la pensée libérale et la religion, et spécialement le catholicisme.

C'est cette foi profonde qui illumine ton visage et te donne cette sérénité, c'est l'Esprit Saint qui inspire ton intelligence et ta charité. Pour tout cela, pour tout ce que tu as apporté à tant de jeunes et de moins jeunes à la recherche de la connaissance et de la vérité, et plus égoïstement pour tout ce que tu m'as apporté, ainsi qu'à ma famille, je t'embrasse fraternement, en étant persuadé que tu assumeras ta mission dans le futur comme tu l'as fait dans le passé : avec simplicité et avec amour.

Jacques GARELLO
RICK GEDDES
Assistant Professor
Dealy Hall, Room 540
geddes@murray.fordham.edu
Phone: (718) 817-4049
Fax: (718) 817-3518
June 29, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

I am indeed grateful that you have been so generous with your wisdom over the years, and have benefited from it immensely. I have found your knowledge and insights to be both useful and awe-inspiring.

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your 65th birthday. I wish you many happy returns!

Warm regards,

Rick Geddes
June 30, 1998

Dear Leonard:

Greetings and felicitations upon the occasion of your 65th birthday! I cannot imagine a better way to celebrate this happy event than to join with so many other of your friends and colleagues around the world in thanking you for your unique contribution to the cause of liberty.

Only of you can it be said, "He has read everything. He knows everyone." Better still, you remember everything you have read and everyone you have met. And best of all, you have made countless thousands of bibliographic and personal introductions, bringing together people and ideas around the world and across the centuries. Your generosity with time is unmatched; as busy as you are, you have never been too busy to share your learning with those in need of it.

As someone who is invited to many more conferences and meetings than I can possibly attend, I have learned to look for your name on the program. Your endorsement is a virtual warranty that the meeting will be fruitful; at the very least, there will be the prospect of an evening with you, catching up on "This Year in Intellectual History," or gaining some insight into the continuing struggle.

It is an honor to be your friend and to participate in this celebration.

Happy birthday,

[Signature]
Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia  

Reykjavik, July 1st 1998  

Dear Leonard,  

If the prospects for liberty appear brighter now, in the twilight of the twentieth century, than often before, it is not least because of the untiring efforts of a handful of men, including yourself. You have not only dedicated your life to liberty, but also combined the entrepreneurial skill and scholarly ability which alone can further our cause. Moreover, you have never become narrow and sectarian, however principled, even uncompromising, you have always been in the defence of liberty. Indeed, if any one title suits you, it is that of a 'good-will ambassador for liberty': wherever you go, you try to bring people together to discuss and develop the principles of liberty; in particular, you greatly encourage young people by your example, your helpfulness, and your immense erudition. I join your many other friends from all over the world in saluting you. Happy birthday to you!  

Yours sincerely,  

Hannes H. Gissurarson  
Professor of Politics
Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on your birthday celebration, an occasion which friends from far and near welcome as an opportunity to express our admiration and gratitude. The exemplary gentleman, friend, scholar and teacher, servant of the general good and man of faith, in you many virtues difficult to attain in our culture find harmony: reason and compassion; intellectual integrity and depth combined with extraordinary scope; the loyalty and private concerns of a friend alongside activism for important causes of the commonweal; perception and stability within ever-renewed growth; public conviction yet unmatched skill in quiet arrangement. Love of God. Generosity and vision intensified by restraint. Modesty despite exceptional accomplishment.

"... Possessed of this real illumination, the mind never views any part of the extended subject-matter of Knowledge without recollecting that it is but a part ... till the whole becomes in imagination like a spirit, every where pervading and penetrating its component parts, and giving them one definite meaning ..."

"The intellect, which has been disciplined to the perfection of its powers, which knows, and thinks while it knows, which has learned to leaven the dense mass of facts and events with the elastic force of reason, such an intellect cannot be partial, cannot be exclusive, cannot be impetuous, cannot be at a loss, cannot but be patient, collected, and majestically calm ... because it ever knows where it stands, and how its path lies from one point to another ..."

"I observe, then ... that the philosophy of an imperial intellect ... is based, not so much on simplification as on discrimination. Its true representative defines, rather than analyzes. He aims at no complete catalogue, or interpretation of the subjects of knowledge, but a following out, as far as man can, what in its fulness is mysterious and unfathomable." (John Henry Cardinal Newman)

Happy Birthday, dear Leonard. And may many more years of friendship, quest and service to others be yours.

Sincerely,

Grace Goodell
Professor
June 22, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA  22030

Dear Leonard:

"A friend in need is a friend indeed" must have been the motto your parents instilled in you. That is what you have been to me. I feel especially privileged to say this because your friendship, as you know, came to me via Burton. He learned so much from you. You challenged and soothed him at the same time. I know he is with you in spirit on this special occasion because no one enhanced his life more than you with the possible exception of me—I hope.

Thank you for passing your friendship on to me and sharing your trips, your knowledge and your wisdom. You always are there and take time when I need you.

May our conferences, and experiences grow for the next thirty years.

Best always. I know no one kinder, nor anyone who deserves happiness more.

Love,

Deecy Gray
June 22, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Distinguished Professor  
George Mason University  
4084 University Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

It is an honor and privilege to write on this auspicious occasion. When I first met you in the mid-1960s, you taught me two important and lasting lessons. Each has respectively served me well in my own work with students and in the development of my understanding of liberty.

The kind and patient way you spent time with me and the equally supportive way I observed you treat others has served as an example for how I have tried to work with students over the years. To you, each student is an individual with special interests and particular needs, and you always addressed them as such. Though few, including myself, could ever live up to your impressive example, you have stood as an exemplar to a generation of us who have spent our lives working to encourage each subsequent generation of young scholars and other classical liberals in their research and careers.

Just as importantly, you taught us that one cannot fully appreciate or understand liberty without a solid grounding in the history of Western civilization. You taught us the importance not only of intellectual history, which of course is imperative, but also of the millennia of struggles by real individuals and groups of people who fought for their sacred liberties against the mighty forces of state power.

We learned from you that liberty grew out the interactions of, inter alia, those perpetual struggles, the thoughts of thousands of minds, both the great and acknowledged as well as the lesser known and forgotten, and the long evolution of liberal institutions. You enlightened us to see that liberalism and individualism, and constitutionalism and federalism did not spring full blown from the writings of theoreticians in 18th Century Great Britain and America, but had their roots deep in the recesses of Western history. For this enriched understanding of liberty and liberalism, I and all the thousands of scholars you have influenced over the years will remain forever grateful.

I am proud and honored to have you as a continuing mentor and friend.

Sincerely,

Walter E. Grinder  
President
July 1, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Atlas Foundation  
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Leonard,

It is with great pleasure that I wish you a blessed birthday. It is an honor for me to be able to do this, and to have the privilege of getting to know you over the past few years.

If you recall, I first met you at the request of Rocco Buttiglione. I was home from Europe on Christmas break. Rocco had suggested we meet at Fordham University to discuss my interest in Austrian economics and Catholic social teaching. You brought Fr. Sadowsky with you. It was an enjoyable and enlightening discussion.

At that time I had no idea that I would later work with you again as a member of the Acton Institute. Your support, advice, and intellectual expertise have been a great boon to my work. Your love of freedom, of the truth, and of God is contagious.

I pray that God continues to bestow on you all His grace. May your heart be filled with joy and peace. And may you always experience the love of the author and source of all freedom. Happy Birthday!

With admiration and in friendship,

[Signature]

Gregory M.A. Gronbacher
July 20, 1998

Anniversary of Claus von Stauffenberg’s heroic attempt on Hitler’s life, July 20, 1944.

Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Dear Len:

The years have crept by, but I’ll never forget the education you helped give me. From the time I met you at the 1969 libertarian conference in New York City—the good old days with Murray Rothbard and Karl Hess—you have proven to be the persistent scholar’s scholar. Through my formative years in graduate school, you were always asking the hard questions that the Establishment’s academicians were afraid to ask.

Can you believe the day actually came when it became respectable to support individual liberty and economic freedom? It is partly because of great minds like yours that this became possible.

Happy birthday, my old friend, and may you have many, many more!

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Halbrook
Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Happy Birthday on your 65th. This birthday is hard to believe because that means I met you when you were 34 years old!! But you are now as I remember you then. The Buddha of the libertarian movement just doesn’t change!

Around you so much has changed and I thank you for helping me see the social/political/economic and especially the historic forces at work in this crazy world of ours. It should be most satisfying for you to see the idea of Civil Society reborn and become common parlance. You represent the epitome of the citizen in a Civil Society.

An all-knowing citizen at that. Leonard, back in the heyday of the 1960s, I remember we were driving over the bridge to Staten Island for God knows what reason. As we reached land, you launched into a long discourse on the immigration waves and ethnic makeup of the Borough. It was so spontaneous and detailed. At that moment I realized you must know everything there is to know. You have never disappointed me in that regard.

In the late 1970s, a bunch of us schemed to capture all that knowledge—especially about the history of freedom—you have. You have taught so many of us so much! We talked about forming a secret society to kidnap you. We would hold you in a safe house in Manhattan, equipped only with tape recorders, typewriters and stenographers. Schools and careers took us in other directions before we could carry out our wonderful idea.

I add my congratulations, then, with a deeply felt “thank you” for your friendship. You have deeply influenced my life in ways you can never know. And you remain an inspiration to those of us who value knowledge, loyalty and liberty. Best wishes for this year and many years to come, my friend.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Charles H. Hamilton
Director
Dear Leonard,

I am delighted to be able to add a note to your birthday book.

Others will extol your brilliance and excellent work, I presume. I would like to express my appreciation for the manner in which you have carried on this important work, with kindness, gentleness, compassion, humor and wisdom, because your manner seems so similar to Dad’s to me.

The memories of all the dinners at Mum and Dad’s, the evenings at the Rothbard’s in New York and all the enjoyable conversations are alive and well and make me smile. Harriet and I speak of you often and hope you are well.

My sentiments are grander than the expression of them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and MANY, MANY MORE!

With Love,

Helen Harper
8 Glen Drive
Mill Valley
CA 94941
June 29, 1998

Dear Leonard,

I first met you at a Cato Summer Seminar in August 1978 where you introduced me to your unique interdisciplinary approach to the history of liberty. Your lectures inspired me to pursue a career in academia and for the past 20 years I have travelled down that path first trodden by you. When I think of you, which is often, I think also of three things to which you have devoted your life: French liberal thought, peace, and the broad sweep of history.

I came to share your fascination with the early 19th century French school of radical classical liberalism and, aided by your great patience and gentle encouragement, a PhD thesis on Comte and Dunoyer was the long-awaited result. Without your personal support over many years this small achievement could not have been possible.

I learnt to treasure Peace and Liberty - the twin pillars of classical liberal thought - by listening to your lectures and by observing the way in which you lived your own life by these same principles. You showed in countless lectures how, without peace, liberty has little meaning, and without liberty, peace is a torment. Following your example, much of my own teaching and research has focussed on the deep connections between these two dear principles.

I found your philosophy of history to be an inspiring one and I have tried to pass this vision of liberty on to my own students. You combine the moral indignation against injustice of the true revolutionary with an appreciation of the evolutionary nature of radical change of the reasonable conservative. This explains the facility with which you have always been able to mix in both radical and conservative academic circles.

All of your intellectual interests have been pursued with an infectious sense of humour and charming wit which endears you to all who know you and disarms all those who do not share your views.

For this and so much more I thank you profoundly and congratulate you on your 65th birthday.

Fondest regards,

David M. Hart
To Leonard Liggio,
A Personal Tribute from an Old Friend.

I write to congratulate Leonard on his sixty five years. He is a valued friend. I like him for his qualities as a person—cheerful, tolerant, helpful, modest, and of course, learned—and for his hugely principled attitude towards life, its challenges and problems. He has a profound respect for the individual, and believes strongly that we have free wills and are responsible for our actions. Leonard is also a thoroughly nice man with an amiable disposition that makes him think well of his fellow man and makes it almost impossible for him to think ill of anybody. This tolerance springs not only from deep principle, but also from a realistic appreciation of the human condition that comes, I believe, from his study of history. It is with great pleasure that I wish him well for the future and I look forward to many pleasant hours in his company.

Max Hartwell.
July 1, 1998

Dear Leonard,

It is a great honor to be included among your more illustrious friends in wishing you a very happy 65th birthday. I've had the envied privilege of knowing you as a colleague, friend, and neighbor for the past 10 years and consider you to be one of the best, most thoughtful people I've ever met. You are the gentle scholar, a noble Knight of Malta—the civil society incarnate.

However, as your librarian at the Institute for Humane Studies, I have not always found our relationship so benign. There is the matter of "several" (I will not be too harsh) overdue books which I fear have now joined the caverns of your own vast collection. If I were not confident that someday they will all by "mine" I would assert my regulatory prerogatives more severely. We could, no doubt, develop a good argument about property rights, rule of law, tragedy of the commons, etc., regarding this matter, but I would be no match for your persuasive powers, especially in the defense of the indefensible.

On the other hand, my tenure as your librarian has been, overall, a great learning experience. You are my best resource, an unfailing reference work with an unbelievable capacity for fuzzy logic. Indeed, I joke that when I'm stumped, I can go to you with a request from some scholar who vaguely remembers a certain article, but he can't remember the title and he can't remember the author. Or better yet, he remembers the title and the author, but it is the wrong title and author. In whatever garbled form we get this request, you, Leonard, seem to know exactly what the fellow is thinking and usually even remember the volume, date, and page of the reference. How does your memory stay so tuned?

I believe, and I think your friends will confirm, that my greatest service to the classical liberal community, has been teaching you to use email. I knew from the beginning that God in heaven arranged the development of this technology in your lifetime. It was made for you and breathed life into a worldwide network of scholars, travelers, philosophers, and friends. The medievlist scholar and the keeper of the card catalogue together took that "bridge to the 21st century" and embraced the technological opportunity that made both our lives more complete and vastly more productive in the true spirit of the classical liberal tradition. It's been my pleasure to travel with you.

Keep jogging. Many happy returns.

With great fondness,

Elaine Hawley
Librarian, The Harper Library,
Institute for Humane Studies
June 29, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
George Mason University
4084 University Dr. #103
Fairfax VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

Happy Birthday on your 65th. You have, of course, made enormous contributions to the advancement of freedom. But as you know, despite many decades of effort, you have still failed to achieve this goal. Please work a little harder because we expect you to accomplish this long before your 130th birthday.

Sincerely,

Jacob G. (Bumper) Hornberger
TO: Leonard Liggio  
FROM: Edward Hudgins  
DATE: July 4, 1998  
SUBJECT: Leonard Liggio

Dear Leonard,

The Encyclopedia Liggio! That is one way I think of you. Anyone wishing to know about the classical liberal and libertarian movement, in this century or any other, or to know which thinker or theorist said what about some particular subject, or to know how to evaluate some event or political situation, current or historical, in terms of the principles of a free society, anyone wanting the best single source for such information can turn to no better fount than you Leonard. A true treat is to be in any forum in which you expound on these or any other issues.

You are a tireless crusader for freedom, using knowledge as your weapon. You have brought innumerable young people into our movement. You have inspired so many of us in our efforts as scholars, researchers, journalists, activists. You are generous with your time and your counsel, and always a joy to deal with.

It is a privilege to know you as an associate and a friend. It is difficult to believe that you’re 65. It is easy to wish you many more productive and happy years!

Best wishes,

Edward Hudgins
Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Dear Leonard,

I am delighted to hear you have done the 65 thing. When I was 10 years old you were only half my age and now you are 92.8% of my age. If the current stock market is any example momentum will have you whizzing by me while I wave to you. Keep it up!

It has been my great privilege to have known you over these last thirty years and particularly to see some sanguine [both bloody and good] results accruing from our efforts. You have lent great dignity and solid counsel to the movement and it has benefited enormously from your moral presence and sensible approach to particularly the philosophical aspects of freedom.

Keep things going as you have with one modification; make a bit more time for San Francisco stops so we can sit in the library over a good single malt and straighten out the world.

All my best for a Happy Birthday and great gobs more of them to come.

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Husbands  6/15/98
Professor Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Dear Leonard,

Best wishes and thanks to you on your 65th birthday.

We have known each other for over twenty years now, and you have been the best of friends. Always kind, generous, and able, you attract others to the causes you support.

You have introduced me to much political history, new ideas, and to many of the individuals I later worked with and considered friends.

Involved in the formation many classical liberal and conservative organizations, your own involvement began with the Taft for President campaign. From the early days with Human Events and National Review, with the Foundation for Economic Education, and with the Volkof Fund and the Liberty Fund, you then joined the Institute for Humane Studies in Menlo Park, California. We met at that time.

On one of my many trips to California, over dinner in 1983 with Christine and John Blundell, we received extraordinary attention. We couldn't understand why, until someone asked if I was Diane Feinstein, Mayor of San Francisco. Someone suggested that, with such a likeness, we could cause real mischief by dropping me off at the City Hall!

We became better acquainted when you moved with IHS to Washington D.C. Your work then and now with Atlas Economic Research Foundation, showcases your organizational and academic abilities. Teaching at George Mason University, you also are in close communication with scholars at Catholic University of America and at Georgetown University. Your leadership in the Philadelphia Society and the Mont Pelerin Society reflects your deep commitment to working with scholars both here and abroad.

Once you moved to Washington I saw your corresponding talent in the public policy area. You generously serve as a resource, as a facilitator, and as a catalyst for people and ideas; linking scholars and policy people, linking libertarians and conservatives and neoconservatives, and linking individuals from every country when they can work together for political freedom.

Deeply committed to religious freedom and practice, as a director of the Acton Institute you and your colleagues promote that goal. Catholic with a small "c," you also are the only friend to have given me a copy of the New Testament and one of the very few to share books on religion and the Catholic faith.

Despite your workload and travel schedule, you make time for other activities, including the occasional cinema, the symphony and other musical programs, lectures, museums and church visits, ice hockey, and long walks. Why does it rain so often on those walks?

Finally, you introduced me to your lovely mother. She was such a gracious and spirited lady, and she was proud of her son, "the professor."

We all are proud of you. The charity, the wisdom and the generosity you show in all that you do makes you beloved of you wide circle of friends.

I join them in wishing you all the best for your 65th birthday and always.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Willa
June 11, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio,
George Mason University,
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

It is a wonderful feeling to be able to congratulate you most warmly on your sixty-fifth birthday. May you enjoy many, many productive years during the coming decades!

We have been friends, according to my recollection, for exactly three-fifths of your life (precisely 39 years). We first met at Clarence Philbrook’s 1959 Seminar at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. I vividly recall being then fascinated by your extremely impressive knowledge of the literature of liberty in general, and of the early nineteenth century French writers in particular.

Since then your scholarship and learning have grown and developed into a mighty tree, with deep roots, extensive branches, and luxuriant foliage. And it has borne ample and excellent fruit in your manifold and prolific teaching and writing activities, and in your visionary administrative undertakings. The stamp you have placed on intellectual developments in the scholarship of liberty over the past four decades is an indelible one — and it does you honor.

Your irrepressible intellectual curiosity and vitality, your enormous energy, your encyclopedic familiarity with scholars in a multitude of fields, around the globe, have made you a figure about which some future Liggio-like scholar will surely write, producing, I am confident, a volume that will hearten and inspire future generations of scholars.

With warmest felicitations,

Sincerely yours,

Israel

Israel M. Kirzner
Professor of Economics
June 9, 1998

Mr. Leonard Liggio

2 Lord North Street
London SW1P 3LB
United Kingdom

Dear Leonard,

Happy birthday! I had no idea you were that old. When we met 19 years ago you were middle-aged, and I still think of us in an eternal time warp. But it has been a while since you tutored me on Destutt de Tracy and the French liberals. Now I’m middle-aged and you’re OLD! You’ve taught me for 19 years, and tended the garden of liberty for many more. I regret that I am unable to make the Charlottesville bash, but am glad I can pay tribute to the great shepherd of the flock.

With affection and gratitude,

Daniel Klein

(Associate Professor of Economics)
July 14, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
C/o John Blundell
The Institute of Economic Affairs
2 Lord North Street
London SW1P 3LB
United Kingdom

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on your 65th Birthday!

The Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) and its students, faculty and staff have reaped the benefit of your constant efforts to advance a free and humane society. While many get distracted by tertiary issues, you have worked tirelessly with everyone to keep the focus on freedom.

As a member of IHS's Organizing Committee in 1960, and through the past 30 years, you have played a very special part in making significant contributions to advancing the cause of liberty.

Leonard, it has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for everything that you have done to make IHS a success.

Many happy returns and best wishes always.

Sincerely,

Charles Koch
Chairman
July 17, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

What seems like long time ago, a young law professor from Québec attended a Liberty Fund colloquium in the United States. The subject matter and many participants in this colloquium have faded in his memory. One participant, an historian, made an indelible impression, though. Never before, and never since, has this law professor met someone whose erudition, acute intelligence, integrity and kindness were so instantly evident.

You have changed my life, Leonard. You helped me return to my beloved native land, and you’ve advanced my career in countless ways. As we say in Jewish tradition, Dayenu! -- if that is all you had done for me I would be eternally grateful. But the main way you’ve changed me, Leonard, has been by showing me what kind of person a true scholar is and must be. I will forever presume I can emulate you, but in my heart I know you are in a class by yourself.

A conference invitation for which, I suspect, you are indirectly responsible prevents me from being present at your fête. So please, Leonard, from the bottom of my heart, accept my thanks in writing.

Michael I. Krauss, B.A., J.D., LL.M.
Professor of Law
President, Virginia Association of Scholars
Tel: 703-993-8024
Facsimile: 703-993-8038
Internet: mkrauss@gmu.edu
Professor Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
Fairfax, VA

Dear Leonard,

I remember very well the first time we met. I was a graduate student at Oxford, and my supervisor, John Gray, had told me that you would be the guest of honour at a small dinner at Jesus College, to which I was invited. As it happened I was seated next to you at the table. Not knowing quite what to do to start up a conversation I turned to you and asked, 'So, what do you do at IHS?' You replied quietly, though with a slightly puzzled look in your face, 'I'm the president'.

It is testimony to your grace and good nature that you did not dismiss me there and then as a complete idiot. (I tried to convince myself that night that my ignorance was due to the pressures of graduate life, and that my mind was rightly on my thesis, and so on. But to no avail!) In the years we have been friends since then I have known only kindness and generosity from you. So let me take this opportunity to thank you for that kindness, and for the practical support you have given me through IHS, and personally.

I am delighted that you are being honoured on the occasion of your 65th birthday. And I would like to send you all my good wishes, and to join with your many friends around the world in celebrating our good fortune in knowing you.

Happy Birthday, Leonard!

Yours ever,

Chandran

Chandran Kukathas
June 12, 1998

Dear Leonard,

What a gift I was given the day I met you, dear friend. That was back in 1987 at the Institute for Humane Studies’ Tallwood House. Recognizing how much I missed the Montana way of life, you eased my transition by asking me to bring my border collie, Gus, to work! What a joy for Gus and for me!

But that was just a smattering of the treasures I was about to receive from you. Perhaps the most memorable gift began when you joined us at the Atlas office. Oh, how many people are jealous of my good fortune— to have Leonard Liggio in the office next door! (Your constant jokes help keep us awake and attentive during staff meetings!) How I love to bring questions to you, knowing that you will know much more about the topic than I could ever imagine. Remember, I thought I could stump you when I asked you if you knew who “Sutherland” (the namesake of The Sutherland Institute in Utah) was. You looked at me for a moment as your mind began its magical processing. “He was the only person from the state of Utah that was ever nominated to the Supreme Court,” you replied. Wow! I have since given up trying to test your memory and knowledge. Now, I only bring questions that I need the answers to. I don’t think you’ve ever failed me. The Protestant Reformation, the founding of the Mont Pelerin Society, the professional travels of this person or that person—no question is left unanswered and never have the answers been wrong!

Ever helpful, every knowledgeable, and always a kind word. I can think of few other people who elicit such pleasant thoughts. If I wore a brightly colored outfit, you commented on the beauty of the color. If my children visited the office, you had a “beanie baby” to give them. You take joy in each person’s achievements, from a child’s first step to a gubernatorial appointment. It doesn’t matter what it is. If it’s something that makes someone happy, you are joyful for that person.

Beyond these delightful human traits, your contributions to the freedom movement are perhaps unique and unrivaled. How many institutions—Cato, the Volker Fund, IHS, HSF, Atlas, Mont Pelerin Society, Liberty Fund, Earhart Foundation, to name a few—have you had a direct role in? With these and many others you have created your own special legacy—something you readily share and leverage to help others in the movement.

Words can never express how thankful I am to know you, Leonard. Thank you for your friendship and your daily presence in my life. It’s been one of the biggest rewards of my work at Atlas.

With warmest regards,

Jo Kwong
Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Stockholm, June 17 1998

Dear Leonard

I regret very much that I will not be able to attend the surprise dinner August 28th at the Atlas 30th International Workshop. I am sure that many will be there but your very wide network includes so many persons all over the world that the farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, VA, would be much too small.

I was surprised to hear that you now turn 65. To me you are an always very young but very learned person with a deep passion for ideas. We have been in touch now and then over almost 20 years. It has been a very pleasant experience for me. You are always very helpful to me and other non-US friends. You are generous with your time and make sure that we read what your find in various publications not easily found outside the US. Recently you have started sending me and others e-mails containing interesting material from the web.

But with all due respect for the Internet it is the human network and your networking that has made such a difference for me.

I am looking forward to our contacts in the future!

Sincerely

Janerik Larsson
Dear Leonard,

I profit from my sabbatical year at IES-Europe to express my gratitude for the tremendous help you gave me in elaborating, conducting and keeping on the IHS-Europe summer's program of week long seminars during the last nine years. Since its foundation in 1989 the Institute has already organized 9 sets of summer Europe and Liberty seminars. So we have run closed to 30 seminars giving us the opportunity to teach to, at least 1000 students. Those week long seminars took place in very different countries such as Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Estonia, France, Great Britain (Oxford), Greece, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden etc...

As an organizer of such seminars, with the help of Claire Chatelin and after her departure with the help of Veronica de Rugy, (both were my assistants at IHS-Europe during that period of time), I can testify that those seminars had a tremendous impact on my intellectual life. It is also a great experience from a personal point of view since for a week, students and faculty members, coming from everywhere in the world, get to live together, to speak and debate. You are discovering new countries, new professors and new friends all over the world.

The other great benefit you bring to me is coming from your passion for the French libertarians scholars of the nineteenth-century. I have to attend the rank of a full professor to become acquainted with our own French roots of classical liberal thinking. Under your imetus I have rediscovered our ancients. Every French student of my generation knew F. Bastiat or J.B Say but the French professors reject so intensively their point of views that no student wants to loose their time by reading them. You gave me the envy to read all the French school of liberal thinkers through Le Journal des Economistes et de la Statistique, to read Le dictionnaire d'Economie Politique edited by Charles Coquelin, the best dictionary I ever read. Far superior to the Palgrave. I discovered Molinari, Leroy Beaulieu, Coquelin, Garnier, and so forth, finally, I came back to the "brilliance of Turgot". One of our greatest economist. Many thanks to you. Without your effort and your knowledge of the French language, I will be always ignorant of our past under the pressure of the profession.

Leonard, let me tell you that your moral, intellectual and strategic support to IES-Europe made a crucial difference. This is the reason why I shared with others the need to recognize how I am indebted to you. In a life we have sometimes to pay a tribute to somebody else, it happens to me several times, and I am very proud to tell you that you are one of them.

With my warmest regards and wishes.

Bertrand

Professor Bertrand Lemennicier
Dear Leonard,

It is quite a joy to celebrate this very special birthday. I feel sad not to be with all the others gathered in this room to give you a big « hourra ! ». I feel all the more sorry as nobody else ever played such an important role in my life and professional career. If I had not had the chance to meet you, things would have surely turned very differently for me, but also for so many of us in France. But unfortunately not for France itself, since we nevertheless failed to really change the course of events in this deeply minded socialist country.

Remember when we first met. It was in Stockholm, during the Mont Pelerin meeting hosted by our friends of the Swedish Employers Association. There was a long walk to some midd' s age castle along the coast. My memory of this long walk along the dirt road remains very vivid in my memory. This was the meeting where we also first met Guy Plunier and formed the plans for what was to become the Institut Economique de Paris.

You are the one to whom I owe what I often look at as my most important personal achievement: the English translation of « Tomorrow Capitalism ». There have been many other translations, but none has ever been so important. Imagine, being translated in English, with a Buchanan's foreword! This is something I had never thought about before it happened. You were the one who took the initiative and carried the project up to its end, with the help of so many of the people who are also part of this ceremony.

Then came this great conference trip around the United States, for three weeks - with a young British graduate who still remembers my non-stop chain smoking: John Blundell. If I recall it right, I was his first duty assignment as he had just arrived to start his job at IHS. Radios, libertarian luncheons, TVs also - where they looked happy to at last find some strange European economist who
supported Reagan's policy -, conferences, cocktails, it surely was one of the most exciting moments of my professional life. An invaluable experience, a fantastic accumulated capital of acquaintances and relationships I have been mostly living on for the following fifteen years.

It is this relationship accumulated capital that I have been happy to share with the other French members of the group « Les nouveaux économistes ». Following Jacques Garello's testimony (who is in a much better position than I to tell the story), I can only reemphasize the most decisive contribution you brought in helping to maintain alive for more than twenty years our « Aix-en-Provence Summer University » tradition. It is thanks to Jacques that we have been able to meet regularly, year after year, usually during the first week of September (or around it). But it is thanks to you, your so nice and pleasant company, but also your incredible « carnet d'adresses », that these « Universités d'été » have become such a famous international rendez-vous among worldwide free-marketers.

One last final thanks to be the one who really led us to rediscover the old French free-market liberal tradition of the 19th century. What a paradox! We needed an American to tell us that the true roots of the modern libertarian movement did lie in our own garden, but so few of us did not know it. France exported classical « Économie Politique » to the United States through Jefferson and his translation of Destutt de Tracy works. You did bring it back to France through your influence on Murray Rothbard and the influence that Murray's writings now have on many of those people who, like me, discovered liberalism and libertarian thought by the end of the seventies.

Undoubtedly, if we could do it, you would deserve to become an honorary French citizen. Failing it, you are any way a full citizen of our small French free-market liberal community. And for you, as well as for me, this is certainly much more important. No need of any special medal. No need of « Légion d'Honneur ». You will always remain in our heart « ce cher, très cher Leonard ». Long live Leonard!

Henri LEPAGE
Kurt R. Leube

Prof. Leonard P. Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, # 103
FAIRFAX, VA 22030-12.

Dear Leonard,

After several years of raising our four boys, Nini was struggling to get back on track in her own field, the history of art. One day she came up with some historical/philosophical questions regarding Leibniz' "Nomadologie" and also the history of the Jesuit order and its impact on the educational system of 18. century Europe. Whom else to contact but you with your superb scholarship and your eminent interest in the motives of men? Of course, your spontaneously provided hints and references were very valuable.

Never condescending, you seem to really enjoy to let others in your incredible knowledge. In dealing with interdisciplinary matters, one needs a comprehensive mind like yours that understands the interdependencies of the various aspects of human action!

It was not by chance that Friedrich A. von Hayek, my venerable teacher always mentioned you with regard to your "Austrian" approach to history. As the sheer description of past events is not sufficient to comprehend the historic substance, the Austrians employ the method of "begreifen" and "verstehen" of human action. This exactly is your strength, and I am very grateful to Hayek for having introduced me to you some 25 years ago. I owe to your wisdom countless insights and stimuli. Be it on a one to one discussion, on a panel that I shared with you, or to listen to one of your masterfully crafted lectures, I always gained a lot. It is also your total command of language that makes following your presentations such a delight.

Last but not least the warmth of your character and your wonderful sense of humor make you a very special and, if I may say, a literally well "rounded" person. The both of us are happy to have you as a friend.

Ad multos annos and Happy Birthday!

[Signature]

June 20, 1998
July 20, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812
lliggio@gmu.edu

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations!

Although I could add to the other wonderful compliments to you, the most important to me is to thank you for being there as a brother and a friend.

With Love from Us All,

[Signature]
Paul & Joyce
Marc, Chris, Adam & Dennis
July 9, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax Virginia 22030-6812
USA

Dear Leonard

Greeting from St Leonards!!

Another milestone in a life dedicated to garnering and nurturing ideas that make liberty flourish. Leonard through the many years we have known each other you have been a selfless and helpful friend. I don’t know if this means that you will be retiring. I hope not. Take it easy by all means, but there are new generations of libertarians and classical liberals who will gain from your knowledge and commitment.

Jenny and I send our warmest best wishes for your birthday, as do all at the CIS who have come to know you over the past 20 years or so.

Yours sincerely

Greg Lindsay
Executive Director
Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on the celebration that is being held for you today. You deserve to be recognized for the inspiration that you have given to so many of us throughout the years and for teaching us what it is like not only to think like a libertarian, but to be a libertarian.

I remember meeting you twenty years ago this month. In the same office, you and John Cody were editing Literature of Liberty. Ralph Raico was editing Inquiry, Murray Rothbard was a visiting scholar, and I was a lowly intern at the Cato Institute. Across the street Roy Childs was editing Libertarian Review. Happily we shared that summer in the city by the bay.

Do you remember Murray’s exhilarating speech after Howard Jarvis at the Proposition 13 rally? Or our trip to Muir Woods one Saturday morning to see the redwoods? On the way back, you parked on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge so that John Cody, Ginny (your assistant), and I could see the beautiful setting of San Francisco. I also remember sharing with you my recently-completed honors thesis on the 19th century railroad industry.

I have never spent a more enjoyable three months.

Later when I was at Liberty Fund, I was delighted that you and I were able to work closely together on a sizable number of conferences. One of my favorites introduced college history majors to free market economics. The conference was held at the Mohonk Mountain House. The person from Mohonk who picked us up at the airport began to sketch some of the place’s history. But after five minutes, he began asking you questions since it was clear that your knowledge of Mohonk was far more extensive than his was.

Leonard, what I treasure about you most is the person you are. To me, classical liberalism (or libertarianism) is more than a political philosophy; it is a way of life. Ideally libertarians should accept people’s right to live their lives peacefully in any way they wish. We, more than the representatives of any other outlook, should be models of tolerance. No one lives that ideal more than you do.

You have a knack for building bridges between people of good will who are on different sides of issues. You are probably the only libertarian fully trusted by conservatives and, probably, liberal historians. (I and my other libertarian brethren are held suspect.)

Leonard, you are so much what I aspire to be: learned but unassuming; dedicated to liberty but tolerant of others with differing views; and kind and helpful to all. You have always been there to give encouragement and suggestions to me and countless others when needed.

Thanks for everything that you have given to our movement and to us personally. All of us are much better for having known you.

With admiration, affection, and enduring friendship,

David A. Lips
August 28, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard,

Perhaps only my dissertation chairman was more instrumental than you in making possible my completion of the Ph.D. program and appointment to a tenure track professorship. For this you have my sincere and lasting thanks. And on this very special occasion of your 65th birthday, you have my best wishes for a happy and memorable celebration, as well as many more to come. I am sorry to be unable to attend the surprise event in Charlottesville. May God continue to bless you and the multitude of people whose efforts you improve.

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Lopez  
(Atlas Fellow 1996-97, 1997-98)
June 11, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812  
USA

Dear Leonard:

I hope you have a good time celebrating your 65th birthday. Your remarkable contributions to freedom have helped us all for a better understanding of the foundations of an open society. Your multivolume Conceived in Liberty with Murray Rothbard has been specially illuminating. I sincerely hope that your next 65 years will be so productive as the first ones.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Alberto Benegas Lynch, Jr.
Professor of Economics
Dean

ABL/mc
Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Foundation  

Dear Leonard,

It is a great pleasure to contribute a letter to this packet assembled in your honor.

It was a great benefit to me to be involved with the Institute for Humane Studies under your leadership, and that of Walter Grinder and John Blundell. Part of the benefit has been quite tangible of course: research support, summer seminars, travel money, and other important opportunities. No less important, however, was the atmosphere that you helped to create at IHS, at which a dedication to classical liberalism was combined with an insistence on intellectual rigor and seriousness. Political commitments never competed with scholarly excellence and rigor.

And of course, it was not all a matter of intellectual seriousness, there was also great comradery among students and faculty which was also very important and to which you also contributed. I vividly remember the picnics and your amazing agility on the volleyball court! These things were important too, as you know, for the sort of personal support that IHS also provided was crucial to sustaining many of us on the rocky road of an academic career.

You have really made a difference, Leonard, and I know that I am only one of very many who will never forget you or your great contribution not only to liberal principles but to people's lives.

As always, I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen Macedo  
Michael O. Sawyer Professor  
Of Constitutional Law and Politics
June 26, 1998

Dear Leonard,

On this happy occasion, it gives me great pleasure to tell you how annoying it is that you are always right.

When I was an IHS intern, I listened to many of your lectures on the connections between Medieval Europe, economic development, and the classical liberal tradition. I learned much from those sessions, but like any student who asks many questions but knows very little, I occasionally disagreed with some of your specific points. One issue, in particular, was the relative rate of taxation in England and France. Imbued with the wisdom of the latest scholarly articles, I asked if it was not true that England actually had higher taxes than France. You replied that such an analysis ignored the impact of smuggling, which was much greater in the English case.

I’m still chagrined when I recall that a few years later, new research did indeed show that smuggling greatly lowered the real incidence of taxation in England. I learned the hard way what Walter Grinder always said: “Leonard knows everything.”

Now that you have reached your 65th birthday, can you please find it in your heart to allow one of us younger folks to be right for just one time?

In the meantime, best wishes for a very happy birthday from an admiring student to a gifted historian.

Sincerely,

John Majewski
In some quarters the intentional private production of public goods, or even of private kindnesses, is taken as strong evidence of a mental deficiency. Self-interest is the mantra of certain pseudo-sophisticated libertarians who demean the noble ideology by their own rationalized self-indulgence. We are, however, coming to recognize, through the work of some geneticists and economists, that altruism may not be as opposed to self-interest as we once supposed. But in truth we did not have to go to the newer work in evolutionary psychology to understand. All we had to do was witness the life of Leonard Liggio.

Certainly no one better understands and appreciates the vitality of the self-interest model than Leonard, but never has he let it have the pernicious effect we see in others. Leonard is living testament to the truth that one can believe deeply in fundamental individualism and still remain one of the sweetest, kindest, most cooperative and generous people in the world. Of course, a cynic might say that this merely signifies that Leonard cannot say no to others requests, and consequently he ends up doing their bidding. But that would seriously misread this unique persons role in so many of our lives.

For it is the case that Leonard Liggio must be maximizing his subjective interests by serving the cause he believes in - and serving it with energy, devotion, and intelligence. Somewhere along the line this man assumed an attitude that we usually think of as property belonging to religious souls, and we, his legions of friends, are the direct beneficiaries of his good works. The number of organizations that would be floundering today without Leonard's assiduous attention, the number of thankless tasks that no one else could be found to manage, the number of young people who owe their developing careers to his mentoring and ministrations, and the number of friends who have learned to turn to him when a solid shoulder topped by a good brain is needed, these numbers are legion. The details of these episodes could fill volumes. And all of us who have been beneficiaries of Leonard's incredible energy and concern should be very thankful that we have witnessed such rare selflessness.

But there is another part of this story that should not be overlooked. I don't know how many of Leonard's other friends appreciate him along an entirely different dimension than I have referred to above, but there must be many. Again, however, as we would expect, Leonard is as low keyed and diffident about his scholarship as he is about his enormous administrative contributions. But just mention that you would like to know something about the role of primogeniture in 13th Century Latvia, or the impact of tribal loyalties on the Albanian fight for independence from Turkey, or the subtleties of American diplomacy in the Levant in the 1790s or a hundred other historical stories from any time and any place that you thought that no one really knew anything about. Leonard will as coolly and, I suspect, accurately relate the story as if he were discussing a baseball game he saw just yesterday. To say that the man is a walking historical encyclopedia would be to claim too much for most encyclopedias. If they are really good, history books should be called "liggios."

Well, this encomium could go on for a long time, but I am sure that Leonard has so many friends that little about his career and accomplishments will not be touched upon. So let us all just acknowledge how fortunate we are to know and associate and be benefited by such a remarkable man. Would there were more like him, and long may he live.

With sincere appreciation,

Henry G. Manne
Florida Atlantic University  
Davie, FL 33314  
954.462.5812  
www.wmarina.com  
marina@fau.edu  
15 July 1998  

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA  

Dear Leonard,  

It is a pleasure to write in observation of your forthcoming 65th birthday. I hope to see you in Virginia at the celebration of the event! I recall with great fondness our first meeting at the 1st Libertarian Scholars Conference in 1972 and our subsequent work together in the summers of 1975 and 1976 at the Institute for Humane Studies then in Menlo Park, CA. I will always appreciate your efforts as Editor of the Literature of Liberty to cut my essay on the American Revolution to a manageable size for the second issue of that fine publication.  

Not many of us in the early 1970s could have envisaged the great success that has been achieved in the last few years in recapturing and extending the idea of Liberty. You have been a moving force in pursuing that effort both in the United States and internationally. Your intellectual support of so many scholars, especially the younger ones, has been truly remarkable. It is not only your universal scholarship, but also your ability to transcend differences and bring people together which makes you such a unique individual.  

I have enjoyed our conversations enormously at dinners in Washington and Florida, at numerous conferences and in long sessions on the telephone. The development of electronic mail has made you an even more potent force in disseminating information among those committed to the cause of Liberty.  

I am certain you will continue to be a shaping force in the effort to inform the public and train younger scholars about some of the issues facing us in the 21st century. As I move toward my own retirement and more frequent visits with several of my children in the Washington area, I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you more often as we did in California over two decades ago. In more ways than I can ever recount here, your friendship has been among the most important and rewarding relationships in my life.  

Lorraine and I hope in the not too distant future that you will again find the time to visit us in Florida. In the meantime, I know you will continue the good work that has made you both a mentor and legend among those who treasure Liberty.  

With warm regards,  

Bill  
William Marina
July 31, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Professor:

It is with great admiration and sincere appreciation that I join your many friends in wishing you a happy 65th birthday.

It is no exaggeration to say that I am where I am today—intellectually and professionally—because of you. While you weren’t the first to introduce me to classical liberalism (that was Robert Sirico), Robert introduced me to you, and the rest was history.

Whether it was the regular phone calls to me as a young college student, to the daily e-mail updates of today, I learn and grow from every encounter with you, Leonard.

Thank you for a lifetime of promoting liberty, and for the vast network of friends you have brought into the movement. The world is a tremendously richer place for your indispensable contributions.

Very truly yours,

Kris Alan Mauren
Executive Director
June 22, 1998

Dr. Leonard P. Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Freedom’s progress during the last half of the twentieth century has been truly remarkable. It has come from the dedication, sacrifice, and hard work of many people. But as I reflect back over the two decades that I have been involved in this effort, I can think of no one who has played such a unique and vital role in freedom’s progress as you. Your inspiration, counsel, and warm-hearted friendship have made a vital difference in the lives of countless people. I am honored and grateful to count myself among them.

You have generously given the gift of true friendship and never asked for anything in return. I hope that as you celebrate your 65th birthday, you will have a moment to reflect upon the fact that the world is a richer place because of the way you have spent each of your 65 years.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William H. Moylor
President and General Counsel
4 July 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio

Dear Leonard,

Warmest congratulations on your sixty-fifth birthday, and I very much regret that I cannot be with you to celebrate at the 30th Atlas International Workshop.

There are too many happy memories to thank you for in a short letter. I will simply say that when we first met at Tallwood a decade ago, I could not have known then that you would become such a dear friend and mentor. Since then we have debated everything from the merits of the Liggio Olive Oil Theory of European History to the legacy of Adam Smith, with innumerable interesting conversations in between. I thank you for them all, and for your constant encouragement of my academic and professional interests.

You remember that in Cicero's day friendship was considered an art form, and Cicero identified friendship as a virtue 'desirable for its own sake'. His words seem to capture the spirit of the friendship you offer to so many:

Reason itself, Cicero suggested, 'advises the acquisition of friends; their possession gives confidence, and a firmly rooted hope of winning pleasure. Hence [an] unselfishness does occur in friendship, while also friendship is closely linked with pleasure. For we rejoice in our friends' joy as much as in our own, ... Therefore the Wise Man will feel exactly the same towards his friend as he does towards himself, and will exert himself as much for his friend's pleasure as he would for his own.' [De Finibus, Bk.Ixx.67-8]

Good health, Happy Birthday, success and blessings for the future.

Affectionately,

Ingrid Merikoski
June 23, 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

I join a huge cohort of friends and admirers in wishing you every happy return on the occasion of your 65th birthday.

During the last few decades, there has been a fundamental shift in the intellectual climate, from one of collectivism and socialism, in which the ideas of individual liberty and free enterprise were reviled if allowed in the debate at all, to one in which these ideas have triumphed. This has been due in large measure to the work of a relatively small number of organizations (Atlas, IHS, Liberty Fund, the Earhart Foundation, the Mont Pelerin Society, the Philadelphia Society). Through their work, a worldwide network of scholars dedicated to the ideas of individual freedom has been created and nurtured. This network forms a global infrastructure that strengthens and extends the reach of the ideas of liberty. It will be needed in the future; socialism continues to rear its head, and the postmodernists and deconstructionists present a threat to liberty. We must anticipate new and unforeseen challenges to the free society.

In saying that organizations have done the work, of course I am using a shorthand for the work of individuals in those organizations. And you, Leonard, have been one of the indispensable parties to the entire effort. You have played a key role in every one of the institutions I have mentioned, and many more, including some of which I know nothing, I am sure. Of course, you have not been an employee in every case. But I know first hand how many times in the course of a discussion of a potential grant, or an invitee to a conference, or questions about some issue before one of these groups, someone has said, "Ask Leonard." And we do, and we inevitably are put on the right track.

Your reputation as a human encyclopedia not only of facts but of people is universally recognized. Your impact goes far beyond the record that is visible in print, although that is formidable enough. It extends to the invisible, to the invaluable advice and counsel that you have given so generously through the years. Even more than that, your steadfast friendship and your unselfish willingness to help others stand out to all who know you.

We are all in your debt. Thank you for everything you do for all of us, and for the cause of freedom.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

John H. Moore
Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812  

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on your 65th birthday. You and I have known each other since the “Baldy” Harper days and the first days of IHS. Our lives since then have touched many times and our relations enriched, and deepened our friendship greatly, influencing our lives. We share multiple interests and characteristics, but none as strong and sustained as our interest in the fundamentals of a “society of free men”. But also the cultures of Italian, Spanish and American societies and their evolution are strong bonds in our intellectual relationship. Our wide group of friends and institutions overlap considerably and help to bring a deep feeling of comfort that our main thoughts are shared widely around the world.

Since I am considerably older than you, I pray and wish that you can continue to develop your life accomplishments which are so many and so valuable, for many more years of a healthy and happy life. Your many friends will be extremely happy to see you accomplish a good share of your dreams.

Your thoughts and mine, which we have held for so many years, are slowly gaining wide acceptance, but continued progress demands a strong, sustained effort by leaders like you and of those you have helped in their development over the last decades. It is hard to think of a more challenging and rewarding life than the one you have led so far and can continue to lead in the future. Thus, I believe all your friends, including me, are proud of having met you and shared over a lifetime your thoughts and experiences.

With best regards,
Your friend,

Julio O. Morales
Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on the occasion of your sixty-fifth birthday! I remember that I first met you over the telephone in 1981. You convinced me that I should come to the IHS summer program, a decision I have never regretted. (You also convinced me that I didn’t have to be an Austrian economist to count as a member of the free market and libertarian fold.)

I cannot remember all the people whom I know because you first introduced them to me. I cannot remember all the books I have read at your suggestion. I can only remember a fraction of the invitations I have received to interesting and important places because you recommended me. The invitation to participate in the Fiftieth Anniversary meeting of the Mont Pelier Society at Mont Pelerin was only the most recent and the most prominent in my memory. In short, I cannot begin to calculate my professional debt to you. Quite literally, I would not be where I am today without you. I can’t thank you enough.

I also cannot begin to estimate the influence you have had on my spiritual growth. You were the first and most important influence in my returning to the Church, after a lapse of twelve years. It seems almost silly to say this, but you were the person who showed me that it is possible to be a Catholic and an intellectual.

Last, but not least, I must thank you for being godfather to my dear son Nicolae. You are truly the perfect godfather for him.

Fondly,

Jennifer Roback Morse
July 20, 1998
9 July 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Senior Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

I suppose my history with you doesn’t go back as far as that of many of your well-wishers, but I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy sixty-fifth birthday.

We met on a few occasions in the early 1990s, but never for very long, so that when I started at IHS in 1996 I was certain that you wouldn’t remember me. Imagine my surprise when, upon introducing myself, you not only remembered who I was, but remembered that I had written for the Orange and Blue Observer at the University of Illinois, and commented that the paper wasn’t as good since I left! Your words really impressed me, and they made me feel welcome in my new job.

Since that day I have come to realize even more what a special person you are, and how much you have done for liberty in your sixty-five years. I was especially touched when you brought me a rosary blessed by the Holy Father upon your return from Rome last summer. As a libertarian, as a Catholic, and as a scholar, you’ve had a strong influence on me, and for the doubt hundreds of others with you have come into contact.

God bless you, Leonard, and enjoy your birthday!

Warmest regards,

John Moser
Program Officer
Дорогой доктор Леонардо Лигgio!

On behalf of the Institute for the Study of Russian Economy and Russian liberals, I would like to congratulate you, remarkable scholar, wonderful person, and exceptional organizer of liberal programs, on this most notable occasion, your sixty-fifth birthday.

I wish you further success, much happiness, and good health.

Президент Института
President of the Institute

Виталий Найшул
Vitali A.Naishul
June 24, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Institute for Humane Studies
George Mason University
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Fleet and I are delighted with the opportunity to share in your 65th birthday celebration. Our family has so many fond memories of our times together. Permit me a few moments to recount some of them.

Who can ever forget your joining us for a weekend YMCA Indian Guides trip? We went to the Missouri Botanical Arboretum, some distance south and west of St. Louis in the foothills of the Ozarks. While traveling there, I was driving our Dodge Ram 15-passenger van, filled with other fathers and sons. As we drove by Six Flags Over St. Louis amusement park, you turned to all of us, "Gee, I can only name five national flags having flown over St. Louis." You preceded to say which ones they were, and the years in which they flew over St. Louis. You concluded that the only reason they could count six, not five, was because the French flag had flown twice over the territory. There was a moment of stunned silence as all of us so thoroughly enjoyed the history lesson. And who could forget your talkificatingly about the land mass called Missouri, its geological formation and present eroded conditions. You obviously enjoyed the time with us, as Ben, Fred and I did with you!

An image I will always carry is you sitting in our family room, in front of the fireplace, in our big papa bear chair. Little Sarah, no more than three years old at the time, was perched on your lap as you read to her a children's book.

And how you surprised all of us at your genuine enjoyment of the World Series games with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1982. There we were, down along the third base line, and you were more correct in all the statistics than most of the die hard fans around us.

Ben recently said that he remembers the caricature of you as part of the group of Declaration of Independence signers. You, together with Rothbard and others, signed my copy of that cartoon from Libertarian Review.

Beyond our precious family memories, I have those of the leadership that you provided over the years to the Institute for Humane Studies. First, very directly as I was the Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Board, and later more indirectly as your persistent guidance kept lots of people on track. Your ability never to get swept away in the current fire is tremendous. You always kept the balance when others were frantically embracing another radical direction. Leonard, your ability to engage the lessons of history with the sweep, elan and perspective few have, make you a rare one-of-a-kind in our universe.

But let's now focus on the future. You need to now spend more time with us in Des Moines and reacquaint yourself with our adult children. We would very much appreciate that!!

Very truly yours,

Arthur V. Neis
Dear Leonard,

Some doggerel in your honor:

Leonard, Leonard Liggio  
Your graceful adigio  
Has made us friends  
T' ward many ends  
And more, we hope, on which to grow.

Best wishes

William A. Niskanen  
Chairman  
Cato Institute  
Washington D.C.
August 28, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Distinguished Senior Scholar

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on turning sixty-five. Happy Birthday!

Over the last five years, I have been fortunate to get to know you. I have discovered the following: you have a gentle temperament. I have seen you remain gentle and kind, even when you encounter man at his worst. Yet your kindness does not cloud your sense of justice. Every day, you simply lead by example, which is the most powerful demonstration of all.

I admire your world-view that integrates liberty, faith, and humanity. And then you live the beliefs you hold, in large and small ways working to make things better for those your life has touched. The large ways are through themes like liberty and faith. The small ways are thoughtful gestures of kindness, whether suggestions of a fitting book or thoughtful gifts from the Holy See.

You have a broad base of knowledge. There’s an old saw about you that when someone asks Leonard what time of day it is, he begins his answer with “During the Roman Empire...” Beyond your intellectual knowledge of history, you have years of experience. I cannot count the times when I have approached you for lessons. You have taught me about institutions, such as the Volcker Fund, Liberty Fund, and the Institute for Humane Studies, about giants in the movement, and about people and relationships. You have strengthened our ability to advance liberty through personal relationships in a way that no one else has. Your personal knowledge serves as a touchstone, a compass.

Although you never seek repute or fame, it is important to give honor where honor is due. You have invested your life and labor in the movement. I speak for all of our colleagues here at IHS when I say that we appreciate you and your outstanding vision, knowledge, and character.

Sincerely,

David Nott  
President
July 1, 1998

Prof. Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive #103
Fairfax, VA  22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

On the occasion of your 65th birthday--something I haven't had the opportunity to express--I send affection and best wishes. Let me also tell you how very much I admire your moral seriousness, dedication, and good humor in the work of education and continual serious inquiry.

Along with the many others whose lives you have touched, I appreciate your generous spirit in sharing your many gifts with us--you give tremendous amounts of time to voluntary efforts, contributed gratis, and willingly share your knowledge and experiences.

It is dangerous to have you as a friend--everytime I talk to you, you suggest three books I should read. If I ask you to help me find copies of them, I then receive them in the mail three days later. Three days after that you ask what I thought of them. Three years later, you will remind me of their arguments. A friendship with you is an education. Most of all, its a swap of anecdotes and stories and many good laughs.

As they sing in Polish--"May you live 100 years!" Happy Birthday, Leonard, and many thanks for your friendship.

With affection,

Michael Novak

MN/cml
June 29, 1991

Dear Leonard,

Lest the New York accent be missing among the greetings from your friends and fans around the world:

CONGRATULATIONS AND ALL GOOD WISHES ON YOUR 65TH BIRTHDAY!

When I cast about for appropriate descriptions of you and your achievements, the result somehow tends to sound like the Middle Ages and the Scholastics: “Kind,” “wise,” “learned.” How much more blest can a historian be than to have an encyclopedic memory like yours? Over the years I have found myself putting aside this or that question involving some elusive datum “to ask Leonard,” next time we met, knowing that you would know. My respect for, and deference to, your learning belies the difference in our ages, but it is a respect and a deference I have never more willingly acknowledged.

So too am I indebted to you for happy and stimulating hours spent here and there, including those with Murray and Joey Rothbard and Joe Peden in New York; as a member with you of the boards of IHS and Atlas; at your dazzling lectures on Classical Liberalism at Robert Louis Stevenson School under the auspices of the John M. Olin Foundation; and elsewhere.

Surely the survival and current re-invigoration of Classical Liberalism is due in no small part to your tireless and magnificent efforts. I am deeply indebted to you and (like all your many friends) I feel that knowing you, over these years, has been not just a pleasure but a privilege.

With loving good wishes from Lonnie and me for your continued success,

Frank O’Connell

Dr. Leonard Liggio
July 28, 1998

Dr. Leonard Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

Greetings and felicitations on your 65th birthday from both Maralene and me. We wish you the very best for this important anniversary year and for many more to follow. One of the joys of having moved to Northern Virginia is the opportunity for me to renew our friendship and for Maralene to develop hers with you.

In preparing this letter, Maralene and I shared our recollections of when each of us met you for the first time. For me, it was 1969 lecture you gave at Fordham University on the Vietnam war. It changed my way of viewing of that conflict forever. Maralene recalls a trip to Aix-en-Provence, where she entered a reception trying to find me. Someone politely asked if she were at the right affair. Looking around the room, she said that “the only person in this room I know is Leonard Liggio.” The response was the only one possible: “That is the only person you need to know.”

Thanks for being who you are and enlightening our lives.

Best wishes,
Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030

June 26, 1998

Dear Leonard,

Few businessmen have had the singular opportunity I have had to be intimately involved in the intellectual ferment of the modern libertarian movement. What a ride it has been! I was gathered into the movement by Leonard Read and his cohorts at FEE but I was absolutely abducted by a radical gang at CLS—with you as one of the chief instigators. Shame on you. You exposed me to a bunch of realities and my life has not been the same since.

I have been most fortunate to have many great teachers in my life beginning with my mother and continuing through many dedicated teachers in my private-school, formal education. Despite having to deal with a good deal of orthodoxy, the one thing I came away with from those formal years was a yearning for learning. After years of traversing empty intellectual cul-de-sacs, I can’t tell you the excitement I felt when first reading Hayek, Mises, Kirzner, Rothbard, et al. But that was only the beginning.

Leonard, you are probably unaware of what a profound influence you have had on me. It wasn’t till after I met you that I began to deepen and internalize the message of these authors. You may not recall, since you have influenced so many, that it was you who led me to read much deeper into political and economic theory. Those tumultuous days at CLS were ones of intellectual ferment—and a lot fun to boot.

I am happy to call you my mentor and my friend. I wish you great joy and a sense of fulfillment upon reaching another of life’s milestones. When this country returns to its libertarian roots one day, few will know how it happened. Those of us in the know will acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the singular role of one great teacher in that outcome.

My best wishes on this important occasion. May you live long enough to see fulfilled some of the fruits of your generous labor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David H. Padden
Professor Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

It's been twenty-three or twenty-four years since we first met and I was introduced to your one-thousand-year plan for liberty. Along with everyone else who knows you, I have always taken it on faith that, well, you would know about such things. Your vast knowledge of history, philosophy (not to say philosophy of history), political economy, and Albanian genealogy qualifies you uniquely. Lately, however, I have been wondering, since there are only nine hundred seventy-six or seventy-seven years left, whether you think we are on course. Has anything gone wrong? Did you indeed foresee in 1974 or 1975 that Al Gore would humiliate himself before the scientific community by calling the Washington Post to complain that a photo of the Earth taken from space had been printed upside down?

It is precisely because everyone who knows you is in such awe of your vast and truly synthetic knowledge that we seek your guidance.

I remain,

[Signature]

Tom G. Palmer

Cato Institute • 1000 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • (202) 842-0200 • FAX: (202) 842-3490
Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Dr. Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, #301
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

When they told me that you're going to be 65 years old, I realized that I've never thought of you in terms of age. I've always thought of you in terms of knowledge and in that regard you are ageless.

I have many memories of things that we’ve done together, but one in particular stands out. I still appreciate your efforts to get my children interested in history when they were young and I was struggling unsuccessfully to do so myself. Your kind regard for other people has always been evident.

I’m fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from you. First at Institute for Humane Studies after Baldy’s death when you stepped up to lead the Institute that you had earlier (Volker Fund days) helped Baldy start. At IHS you introduced me to many scholars all of whom you knew and whose works you knew extensively. I feel fortunate to have had the same opportunity at Cato and now again at Atlas.

But I believe that you have always been larger than any one organization that you were affiliated with at any one time. Your outreach has always been to a larger constituency and your efforts and dedication have always gone beyond the considerable responsibilities that you had in your various positions.

I recall many pleasant times in your company. It didn’t matter whether we were testing your knowledge of world events or quizzes you on remote trivia or just talking as friends do talk to each other, you always rewarded us with information and insights.

Best wishes for many more happy birthdays!!!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

p.s. I have the “Founding Fathers” picture of you and your four friends hanging in my den to remind me daily of your role in the movement to restore freedom.
Dr. Svetozar (Steve) Pejovich  
6959 Joyce Way  
Dallas, Texas 75225  

Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
Fairfax, Virginia  

My Dear Friend:  

I am glad to inform you that I have used my small grant from one of our finest foundation to search for your TRUE roots. My research led me to the Balkans. More specifically to Montenegro.  

I believe that your great-great grandfather was a Montenegrin who believed in only nine commandments. So, he got in trouble with a neighbor and had to move across the lake into Albania. In Albania he got a new name, became a catholic, and started a family.  

Then your great-grandfather got in trouble with local customs (they had no laws in those days; just about same as today) and fled to Montenegro where he became a prosperous Montenegrin Albanian.  

Your grandfather, perceiving the importance of the Chicago School for your intellectual development (even though you were yet unborn) and the Atlas Foundation for your economic well-being moved to the United States. The family lived happily ever after.  

Liggio, my research on your origins was labor of love. I will send you no bills. However, any token of appreciation from you would be welcome  

Your friend  
Steve  
[Signature]
June 9, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive #103
Fairfax VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

Yes, it is your 65th birthday. And yes, Ruth and I wish you all the best. However, nearly everyone in the civilized world now lives to 65, so don’t get puffed up beyond your usual fullsome self merely because you have successfully passed that age hurdle.

On the other hand, unlike so many who reach 65 and can’t wait to head for retirement, Florida, the golf course, and 20 to 30 years of intellectual stagnation, you are going strong! And doing your best to offset the neglect of all those Floridian golfers to the intellectual and political substance of the United States and the World that made their “enjoyable retirement” possible!

Your contribution is in helping the young intellectuals choose the path outlined by individual liberty and responsibility, free markets, and limited government is enormous. We wish there were a lot more savants like you. The world would be a better place.

We think back with pleasure and amusement to our shared spartan quarters in Queens College some fifteen years back. A lot of water under the bridge since then, and clearly we are gaining on the statist, thanks to the likes of you, Leonard.

In these modern days of the TWO V’s (Vitamins and Viagra), one’s productivity capacity goes on for decades beyond 65. We need your continuing inputs. We are counting on you.

With great affection,

[Signature]

Ruth
Caro Leonard,

per i liberali italiani tu rappresenti una figura speciale. Tra coloro che portano un cognome italiano, tu sei senz’altro il liberale più conosciuto e stimato nel mondo. Di più: con la vastità della tua cultura storica, hai fatto capire ai liberali italiani quanto la nostra tradizione culturale abbia contribuito all’affermarsi del principio di libertà, sebbene il liberalismo politico non abbia avuto l’Italia come terra di elezione.

*Ad multos annos* di vita felice e di altre conquiste intellettuali.

Angelo M. Petroni

---

Centro di Ricerca
e Documentazione
"Luigi Einaudi"

10121 Torino, Via Ponza 4
Tel. +39.11.55.91.611, Fax 55.91.691
Dear Leonard:

It is with the greatest pleasure that Juliana and I wish you a happy 65th birthday! For nearly a quarter of a century, now, you’ve been a part of our lives, so it is only fitting, on this occasion, that we take a moment to reflect on what your counsel and friendship have meant to us.

Like so many others who were struggling through graduate school in the ’70s, we met you through IHS. Although Menlo Park was far removed from Hyde Park, your presence was real all the same. In fact, through Davis Keeler, you’ll recall, you brought us into the IHS fold, for which we are eternally grateful. I cannot tell you how important it was to me that you and Davis saw, from the start, the place of my jurisprudential work in the larger scheme of things. And your counsel to Juliana in history, in the history of ideas, and in international affairs did so very much to set the course of her work.

You introduced us both to a larger world, and enabled me, in particular, to reach a much broader audience—in fact, my first serious publication was in your Law & Liberty. But it was during the darkest days, when your help was most needed, that you stood by our side, looking always toward the future. When the academic prospects were bleakest, at the beginning of the ’80s, you made a home for us and for our work until at last we landed on our feet, after which, as we say, the rest was history.

And so, as we look back over those difficult early years, and the better years that followed, we thank you profoundly for your always warm and generous support, for your intellectual and spiritual encouragement, and for your friendship.

Happy birthday!

Sincerely,

Roger Pilon

Prof. Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812
July 10, 1998

Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on your 65th birthday!

It must be very gratifying to you to observe the tremendous gains for liberty and free markets that have occurred during the past two decades around the world. The ideas to which you have dedicated your life are having a major impact, improving the lives and liberty of billions of people.

I just wanted to extend a personal thank-you for the role you have played as a mentor and role model to me and other libertarian leaders over the years. In a movement that has been plagued by factions and personal attacks, the most steadfast rock of calmness, courtesy, diplomacy, and integrity has been Leonard Liggio. I’ve never said anything about this to you, though I’ve often made such comments to others. I guess one of the reasons we celebrate milestones like a 65th birthday is to provide an opportunity for such often-overlooked gestures. Thank you, Leonard.

Hope to see you at the Washington Mont Pelerin meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Poole, Jr.  
President
Art Pope  
304 Forsyth Street  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
August 15, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Distinguished Senior Scholar  
Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University  
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Leonard,

I know you have received abundant recognition for your well deserved reputation as a superb scholar. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for being a personal friend and mentor.

I remember well the first time I met you at "Camp Cato" during the summer of 1978 at Wake Forest University. It was a wonderful opportunity for me, as a student, to meet others who shared a commitment to the principles of freedom and liberty. You of course helped put an excellent academic framework around the many ideas being discussed and debated. Perhaps more important, you took the time to befriend so many of the students. And with so many of us literally running around, I knew that your friendship was individually genuine and personal. You put a genteel human face to the pursuit of truth and liberty.

While I chose a career in law and business (and even participated in politics and government), your time and advice was always most helpful. It was a further pleasure and honor to work with you at the Institute of Humane Studies and the Atlas Economic Research Foundation. And on the friendship level, it was a joy just to sit and listen to your stories, or should I say your living history, of your personal experiences with people such as Ayn Rand.

For all that you have done, and all that you will continue to do, please accept my personal thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Art Pope
For Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Dear Leonard,

It is hard to know what to choose to say on an occasion like this, since I can hardly remember a time when I was not under your benign influence.

I could speak, of course, of all that I have learned from you, how much I have benefited from your great scholarship. It would be easy to go on for many pages also on what your ceaseless efforts have meant for the classical liberal movement in America and, it is no exaggeration to say, throughout the world. There are countries—countries which even my students have heard of—where a classical liberal movement would hardly even exist today if it were not for you.

But what comes to mind first and foremost in reflecting on the decades of our friendship are certain spiritual qualities which you have never failed to demonstrate—your readiness to take pains to further the education (in the widest sense) of others; your Christian good will towards your fellow man; and the calm and secure strength of character which you have always exhibited.

So I join with all your other friends in wishing you good health, continued success, and happiness in the years to come.

With affection and respect,

Ralph
July 5, 1998

Dear Leonard,

You are in many ways responsible for my association with Laissez Faire Books. In fall 1981 you mentioned in a phone conversation that the bookstore was about to go out of business and urged me to intervene. Howie and I bought the assets and that was the end of my life of leisure. I've never regretted it, and I'm very appreciative of your support through the years.

Leonard, you've been a friend and mentor for more than 25 years. Remember what fun -- and late-night idea fests -- we had in Murray's living room? And the creative meetings with the War Resisters League? You played a key role at Cato in San Francisco. Your work at both IHS and Atlas has been inspirational. I love listening to your lectures: each sentence seems to end at a crossroads -- you know so much about so many things that you could take any one of a number of fascinating paths to a different field of information.

And you seem to be everywhere. Remember when we bumped into you in a park in Stockholm? And had dinner at the only bad restaurant in Paris? You're always travelling because your presence is so important all over the world.

You've enriched so many lives. You're truly irreplaceable and I hope you'll agree to live till at least 120. Thanks, dear friend, for all you've given me through the years. Your mother became part of my life too, as did your nephew, and of course, Joe Peden.

On your 65th birthday Howie and I send much love and happy birthday wishes.

L'chaim!

[Signature]

Andrea Millen Rich
Dear Leonard,

Without a doubt, you are one of the most inspirational libertarians of the twentieth century. Anyone who has had the pleasure and honor of spending time with you has been transformed, not just in his love of liberty but in his love of scholarship and intellectual integrity. You've taught us in the best possible way, by shining example. You are the man for whom the phrase "a gentleman and a scholar" was coined. Your admirers are legion.

All my best on this happy occasion. Happy birthday!

With the greatest respect and affection,
June 23, 1998

Mr. Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 03
Fairfax, VA 22030-6182

Dear Leonard:

I first met you in late 1967 or early 1968 at the home of Joey and Murray Rothbard. At the time, my knowledge of classical liberal thought, especially its history, was meagre. You had quite a significant role in making me aware of the breadth and depth of liberalism. From you I learned that a liberal society and a noninterventionist foreign policy are tightly related. Freedom at home will not last in a garrison state. From you (and Ralph Raico) I first heard of the French liberals: among them, Benjamin Constant, Gustave de Molinari, and the "real" Jean-Baptiste Say behind "Say's Law."

Most of all, I appreciate your help over the years, going back to the days before there were relatively well-financed institutions to nurture young classical liberals. Intellectual mentoring was done on an informal, one-to-one basis. You were (and are) always generous with time, advice and your vast knowledge of liberty.

Leonard, I wish you many happy and productive years as the classical liberal ambassador to the world!

Happy birthday.

With best wishes,

Mario J. Rizzo
Dear Leonard,

I am writing to congratulate you on the occasion of your sixty-fifth birthday. I should like to share in this important landmark in your life’s work in maintaining the sacred fire of liberty.

To all of us in the Movement, you are viewed as one of the very few modern American Founders; one of the tiny band who courageously sacrificed their all in the support of freedom at a time when freedom was very widely despised by intellectuals who sought to impose their own preferences on the people.

Well, you won the great battle and can now enjoy the fruits of that resounding victory. We who know and love you are proud when we see you gaining the recognition that was so hard earned, taking leadership roles in The Philadelphia Society and in The Mont Pelerin Society, gracing these prestigious organizations with gentle humor, with genuine humility, with consummate skill and with intellectual vigor.

Your work on behalf of The Institute for Humane Studies and Atlas Economic Research Foundation continues to be of fundamental importance for the preservation of freedom. Among the young and the not-so-young you are revered as a prodigious contributor and as an exemplary role model. Your scholarship is widely disseminated and highly regarded by all friends of liberty.

Keep up the good work old friend. We continue to lean heavily upon your contributions. You may be a cornerstone of the history of the Movement. You are also a fundamental part of its future.

Happy Birthday!

Charles K. Rowley

4084 University Drive, Suite 103, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812
Tel: (703) 383-6952 • Fax: (703) 352-9747 • E-mail: locke@thelockeinstitute.org • Website: www.TheLockeInstitute.org
Dear Leonard,

It is hard to believe that we have known each other since about 1965. We met on the occasion of my first visit to Murray Rothbard's apartment. I learnt then that you had been the lucky recipient of a Jesuit education: you were a graduate of Georgetown University.

In those days every Georgetown student spent two hours each day of his senior and junior years in the study of scholastic philosophy: a philosophy inaugurated by Aristotle and developed by such minds as the Dominican, Aquinas and the Jesuit, Suarez.

You were especially fortunate in being introduced to that subject by one who was to make a lasting impression on you, Father John J. Toohey, S.J. He was famous both as a professor of logic and as the moderator of Georgetown's invincible (as long as he was in charge) debate team. One of his great contributions was his insistence that there were no collective entities: that the collection was not an entity over and above the things collected but simply the collected individual brought together for the achievement of a purpose common to each of them. So while social beings exist, society does not exist as a thin over and above those beings. It is in this sense that one can say that there is no such thing as society. We can speak of our relationship to the rest of society but not to society.

All this would have grounded you in that understanding of methodological individualism that is so important for an understanding of both history and economics. Your later studies in history were particularly fruitful because of your grounding in economics and philosophy. These two supplied you with the necessary framework for making sense out of the mere succession of events.

I think it just marvellous that a Knight of Malta should find himself President of the Mount Pelerin Society. Your scholarly presentations at numerous conferences have done much to show that at its best religion is a support and a friend of freedom. What would Rouvier and Knight think about that! Indeed, it is hard to think of you without thinking of Acton as well.

Dear Leonard, I am above all grateful for your friendship and your constant support. You have been the inspiration of so many of us in the unending struggle for liberty and its daughter, order. Keep going. We need you!

James Sadowsky sj
Associate Professor of Philosophy (emer.)
Professeur Pascal Salin                      le 22 juillet 1998

au Professeur Leonard Liggio

Que vous souhaiter pour votre anniversaire, cher Leonard ? Bien sûr, beaucoup de bonheur, de satisfactions. Mais permettez-moi plutôt d'exprimer mes voeux de manière égoïste, en vous adressant une demande : de continuer à être ce que vous êtes; c'est-à-dire de garder cette merveilleuse disponibilité qui donne tant de force à votre amitié; d'offrir avec générosité les fruits de votre immense culture; d'apporter la preuve que la modestie est la véritable élégance des Sages; de communiquer sans relâche la force de vos convictions.

Je suis donc heureux que cet anniversaire me permette de m'arrêter quelques instants pour méditer sur les années passées et ramener à ma mémoire tous ces instants marqués par votre présence, votre inspiration, vos réflexions. Dans ce remarquable réseau d'amis qui, à travers le monde, défendent la liberté individuelle, vous êtes un élément essentiel, heureusement incontournable.

Merci donc, Leonard, pour ce que vous êtes. Et bon anniversaire !

[\(\text{\()~\)}

Pascal Salin
Professeur à l'Université Paris-Dauphine
ancien Président de la Société du Mont Pèlerin
Leonard P. Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Dear Leonard:

Congratulations on your 65th birthday! This occasion marks a memorable celebration for the champions of liberty—for all your friends and colleagues, for all your most devoted students. For no member of the family of freedom has learnt from you, has nurtured his or her energies in defense of a cause that knows no better exponent than yourself.

It is my privilege to celebrate this occasion. You have been a very dominant force in the formation of my own thinking about liberty, ever since I first listened to a wonderful lecture you gave on liberty and society, in George Mason University, while I was doing an internship in Washington DC. Some eight years later I would bump into you again, in the MPS meetings in Guatemala, where I listened to a lecture you gave on the history of liberalism, a lecture still fresh in the minds of your intellectual brethren.

On this occasion, I would like to share with you the most vivid image I have of your scholarship, your lore and learning, you fundamental understanding of the principles of liberty. In 1997, in the first reunion of the Economic Freedom Network, a dispute arose among the 38 participants (which included Milton and Rose Freidman) about whether the existence of conscription should be factored into the equation of measuring degrees of economic liberty. The debate ran out for about 15 minutes, while you waited, humbly and patiently, for your turn. Then, you spoke eloquently: "the human body is the most important form of private property." The room was struck with deafening silence, and the case was closed, end of discussion.

This is one of an indefinite number of examples of your wisdom—a wisdom that is not tyrannical, but dialogical, the outcome of civilized reason and conversation.

Leonard, Professor Liggio, friend in liberty... muy feliz cumpleaños!!

All my best,

Roberto

Dr. Roberto Salinas Leon  
Executive Director for Policy Anaysis
Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation

July 1, 1998

Dear Leonard,

This is to wish you Happy 65th Birthday!

And to wish you joy and fulfillment in your new projects in the years to come.

And to thank you for how much you've meant to so many people for so long, going back to the heyday of McCarthy when the spirit of free inquiry needed champions willing to put everything on the line in defense of it, and you were there.

I do not know where we all would be if not for you. It would be a different world.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to know you these past thirteen years.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

David Schmidtz
Professor of Philosophy
Joint Professor of Economics
July 14, 1998

Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Ste. 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

The news that you will be celebrating your 65th birthday this year came to me as something of a shock. The shock came, not merely because the years seemed exaggerated, but because I have gotten into the habit of thinking of you as a timeless institution, a sort of walking, talking classical-liberal encyclopedia.

I believe we first became acquainted when I began an internship at I.H.S. during its last year in Menlo Park. That seems a long time ago; but I remain very much an "I.H.S." man, constantly trying to live up to the ideals of scholarship that you and Walter Grinder stood for. I remember how proud I was to have found myself lecturing alongside you—and the joy of doing so in beautiful places like Prague and the Hungarian countryside. Indeed, I can't think of having ever received any greater reward for my years of academic training.

You've had so much influence on so many persons like myself, that I don't suppose even you, with all the reading you seem to do, can keep informed of what each of us has been up to. Yet I can honestly say that I never write a thing without hoping that it would meet with your approval should you ever decide to add its contents to your encyclopedic knowledge.

Mere human beings often retire at 65; but I trust that institutions do not. I hope we will have many more occasions to work together in the coming years, preferably in some far-off, liberty-challenged part of the world.

Yours with affection and admiration,

George Selgin
Associate Professor
July 8, 1998

Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Dr Ste 103
Fairfax VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

We are delighted to wish you the best on your 65th birthday. What a fine scholar and student of history you are! We appreciate your friendship.

Rick first corresponded with you when you were the editor of Literature of Liberty and published the bibliographic essay he wrote with John Baden, “Property Rights and Natural Resources Management” (October/December 1979). That issue was historic in a way because it helped launch the major re-thinking of environmentalism that we have been privileged to be a part of for many years. Because of your concern for liberty and your sound judgment, we expect that many other issues of Literature of Liberty were historic, as well.

Jane first met you on a memorable visit to Aix-en-Provence. We learned a lot about Roman and Gallic history all at once as you guided us on a trip to the Roman aqueduct and other ancient ruins! Your conversations there with Rick helped revise his rather dim view of history as a discipline, especially when you explained that modern tax systems evolved to finance warfare.

We were grateful that you encouraged us to return to the Summer University at Aix, as we did year after year, relishing the experience every time. You also gave us a chance to speak at a lively meeting of ISIL in suburban Stockholm. (And when we ran into difficulties you championed our cause.)

More recently, we have enjoyed attending Philadelphia Society meetings where we have absorbed some more of your ideas, and we look forward to continuing that association for many years. You are known widely and justly as a genuine scholar and a man of goodwill, good sense, and good humor. It is a pleasure to know you and we are happy to have the opportunity to help you celebrate your birthday.

Affectionately,

Richard L. Stroup
Senior Associate

Jane S. Shaw
Senior Associate
I am delighted to be able to contribute to this birthday celebration for Leonard Liggio.

Leonard is one of the most kindly people whom I have ever met. His personality also exemplifies brilliantly, and displays so well, the strengths of his political and social views. He is always ready to help, to assist, and to suggest ways in which people's projects might be furthered through voluntary cooperation. But I do not think that I have ever come across anyone as free of aggression towards other people or from any wish to confront or to force his opinion upon them.

Leonard is also distinctive - indeed, amazing - in his knowledge. A brief question about Early America, about the development of law in Europe, about some aspect of foreign policy, or indeed about pretty much anything, will lead to a fascinating account of a kind that I suspect one could only get from Leonard. Not only his is approach unfailingly interesting and challenging, but it is full of issues that are crying out for further exploration. Over and over again, he has suggested lines of enquiry which have been neglected, and has called into question views which are, truly, the dogmas of our day. There would be enough here for exploration by an army - better, a collaborative commune - of graduate students and younger scholars.

The world is truly a richer place for Leonard's presence, and I am delighted to join you - from my desk in a Canberra winter - in the celebration of a truly remarkable man.

Jeremy Shearmur
Senior Lecturer in Political Theory
& Convener of the Graduate Program
in Political Science and International Relations
In Tribute to Leonard Liggio

This is an occasion to be celebrated by lovers of freedom the world over. It is time to give thanks to a ubiquitous character with a promiscuous mind; an affable soul; a formidable intellect; a generous friend. It is the commemoration of the coming into the world of Leonard Liggio three score and five years ago.

I cannot think of another person of whom I could say that no matter where I am on the globe, it would not surprise me one iota if Leonard walked through the doorway. I recall the time touring the papal palaces at Avignon with a small group of people that included Leonard. Initially he began merely to comment on the surroundings, at first offering a bit of information to round out the guide’s conjecture; as the tour progressed he added a bit of nuance to an historical inaccuracy offered by the guide; he ended up taking over the entire tour, to the guide’s delight. I am sure some of those on the tour offered to tip Leonard at its conclusion. For a passing moment that day I wondered about the veracity of the doctrine of reincarnation, and thought for a moment that Leonard had been one of the Cardinals in the court of Clement V.

I have known Leonard long before I was a priest, but he has made me a better one. I cannot think what the classical liberal movement would be today were it not for the generosity of this man, of his vocation to be a walking roll-a-dex. He is the indisputable Connector of people, ideas and movements. Numerous books could add his name as co-author, and many more already credit his advice, assistance and encouragement.

Leonard Liggio embodies the adage that there is no limit to what a man can accomplish as long as he doesn’t care who gets the credit.

Rev. Robert A. Sirico
President, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty

Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty
161 Ottawa NW, Suite 501, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Phone (616) 454-8080 • Fax (616) 454-9454
Dr. Jack Sommer  
Knight Distinguished Professor

Professor Leonard Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia  22030-6812

June 30, 1998

Dear Leonard:

When I was a high school lad in Lebanon I was introduced to the poet, Kahlil Gibran. A thought of his moved me then, and has resided with me the rest of my life. He wrote:

Then said a teacher, Speak to us of Teaching  
And he said:

No man can reveal to you ought but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and lovingness.

If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind…

For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.

I took this ethic to heart as I became a teacher and strove to follow it in my profession. What a delight it was for me to come to know you, you who made manifest this abstraction in your being. To discover you was uplifting and reassuring—to have known you this past twenty years an immense privilege and joy.

This is a time to say thank you for the many kindnesses you have accorded me—the citation of text here, the gentle critical observation there; above all has been the unfailingly apt recommendation of someone else with whom to share a particular thought. You are, I am sure, the gnomon whose timely shade has been a relief to a band of individuals gathered in support of liberty. You have given us an introduction to each other, an act of incalculable value. The words, "Leonard Liggio suggested I should contact you…" have more gravity than a firman from the most powerful Sultan, literally escorting us to the threshold of new combinations of thought. We are in your debt.

So, in your sixty-fifth year I salute you with words that may be a little embarrassing, but surely not surprising. I am, after all,

Your friend,

Jack Sommer

Dear Leonard,

No fortune can be more valuable and greater than the friends one has been able to make during his life.

You are a rich man, Leo, and this deserved tribute now makes it evident. You have made them by the dozens, by the hundreds.

I will never forget when I first met you, some twenty years ago at a Cato Seminar in Dartmouth. Not only for the lectures that you delivered at the seminar but also because you stayed the whole week providing us with the benefit of more close and enlightened afterhours discussions about this completely new world that was being opened to me and to many others, and that became, since then, the source of so much satisfaction. And that is what sowing ideas is all about. We never know what trees will grow up from the seeds that we have been throwing here and there. And you have done it all over the world as, along these years, I have had the opportunity and the privilege of witnessing.

For all that you have done you do not deserve gratitude for you did it for your own pleasure; for your own satisfaction. You deserve friendship and that is what you have got; this homage to you today proves it beyond any doubt.

Donald Stewart Junior
26 June 1998

Dr. Leonard P. Liggio  
Executive Vice President  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6812

Dear Leonard:

Difficult as I find it to believe, I am reliably informed that later this year you will turn 65 years old. In that regard, please allow me to convey to you my very best wishes. Certainly, this milestone will simply be one more of the many which have marked your distinguished career. So many of us around the world are certainly going to continue to count on you to campaign with us on behalf of individual liberty and the fostering of free and ordered societies.

Leonard, among the most important of your many contributions may be the leadership that you have provided in carrying the message of freedom to peoples and cultures where liberty has long been compromised or suppressed. In particular, your leadership in articulating the philosophy of freedom to the Muslim and Arab world, and reminding both Muslims and Westerners that limited government, entrepreneurship and private property have an ancient and respected pedigree within Islamic civilization, should constitute an inspiration to us all. One may hope that both classical liberals and conservatives will come to know what you have taught some of us so well: namely, that liberty should not be understood as inherently unique to the West, but a human right (manifested within the appropriate cultural paradigms) which all peoples are entitled to enjoy.

Again, my warmest regards to you on this happy occasion.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

ANTONY T. SULLIVAN  
Secretary and  
Director of Program
Dear Leonard,

Happy Birthday! I am sorry I cannot join you for your celebration, but wish you all the best on this day.

I would like to convey to you my appreciation for all you have done for me over the years. We first met at the Institute for Humane Studies 'Liberty and Society' Program in the summer of 1992. More exciting, from an intellectual standpoint, was the time I spent the following week at the 'Western Economic and Political History' Seminar you arranged for post-graduate students. I remember that week vividly and learned a great deal about the classical liberal approach to the study of history.

During the summer of 1993, when I was a Summer Fellow at the IHS in Fairfax, you took the time from your busy schedule to introduce me to a number of noted scholars of the Middle East and Islam. I especially cherish the fascinating discussions you and I had on subjects such as political Islam, US policy toward the Middle East, and the rise of market economies in the Arab world.

I would also like to thank you for your constant efforts to secure adequate funding for my doctoral work at Oxford University. Without your support, I would have been unable to complete my studies.

Finally, your encouragement meant a lot to me during the time I spent publishing articles and reviews in professional and non-specialist journals.

In short, your friendship and mentorship has had a substantive impact on my life during the past six years.

Many happy returns,

Lawrence Tal

LAWRENCE TAL
Shell International
Group Leadership and Performance (LEAP)
P.O. Box 162
2501 AN The Hague
The Netherlands

Office +31 70 377 5120
Mobile +31 655 124 002
Fax +31 70 377 5221

The LEAP Site: http://www.leap.shell.com/
August 12, 1998

Leonard Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Dear Leonard,

In Washington, DC there is an old saw that a friend is someone who stabs you in the front.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of truth to this notion. In the nation’s capital it is expected that time must be spent worshipping at the shrines of other people’s egos – egos oftentimes built upon pillars sunk into the limestone bedrock of arrogant incompetence.

The few exceptions to this beltway “culture” stand like a lamp on the lampstand that cannot be hidden. One of those exceptions is you. A scholar in the classical tradition equally comfortable with history, economics, political science, and the law, you embody wisdom, courage, integrity, and perhaps most importantly, humility in a world where lesser lights must try to dismiss those values as anachronistic alchemy no longer relevant in a post modern world.

Leonard, you are a scholar, a gentleman, a humane person living his life by his principles, an example for the rest of us, a friend.

Anything we are able to accomplish at the Virginia Institute in the future will be due to the fact that in our early days we had the wise counsel, the consistent encouragement, and the valued friendship of one Leonard Liggio. Lynn and I wish you the best on the occasion of your 65th birthday.

With warmest regards, I remain

Respectfully yours,

John Taylor
Professor Leonard P. Liggio  
Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia  22030

CONGRATULATIONS, LEONARD, on graduating from the rank of  
Distinguished Senior Scholar and rising to the rank of  
Venerable Senior Citizen. Yes, ready or not, good friend,  
you have finally joined the ranks of us Old Timers.  

BEWARE OF THOSE ACHES AND PAINS!

Let me take this opportunity to salute you, Leonard, for  
your many years of service in the promotion of the ideals  
of a free and just society. In addition to your teaching  
at various universities, you have made major contributions  
to the programs of numerous organizations —— including,  
among others, the Volker Fund, The Philadelphia Society,  
Institute for Humane Studies, Liberty Fund and, currently,  
the Atlas Foundation. The many scholars involved over the  
years in seminars and conferences arranged and directed by  
you, all applaud your administrative and diplomatic skills:  

THREE CHEERS FOR LIGGIO, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE!

On a personal note, I conclude by thanking you, Leonard,  
for being such a congenial roommate at sundry conferences  
here and abroad. Your snoring was always melodious!

[Signature]

[Emoticon]
August 28, 1998

Leonard Liggio
Citizen of America and the World

Dear Leonard,

What a pleasure to recognize your achievements and friendship on this day. We surely go back as far as almost anybody. I like to think that our Georgetown education contributed to how both our paths later crossed in life and our similar philosophies. Perhaps our old Professor O'Sullivan is out there somewhere seeing his good works.

Few people have the ability and drive life to really change the world for their presence in it and you are such a one. I think of all those years when we thought we were on the losing side in the battle against foreign and domestic tyranny, and how blessed we are to have seen come about much that we strove for. Equally it was the fight in the 3rd World which finally turned the tide. As a bit player in the battle I very much admire those who dedicated their lives to the cause, whereas I always thought there was no hope of winning and was first of all a businessman pursuing my “profits.”

Also, dear Leonard, there is your humanity and sympathy. Many conservatives and libertarians really care little about the human misery outside their own nations. Not just is it a religious duty to spread and share our prosperity, yet also our own security depends upon our revolution of rising prosperity and dignity being international and for all human beings. You combine a practicality and religious “anschauung” (worldview) which I most respect.

Lastly, I would add, there is your Christian humility, generosity, scholarship, and hard work which have so greatly promoted the success of the enterprises with which you have been associated. The world is a better place for your presence and life’s work.

Wishing you all the best for now and the future,

Happy Birthday,
Dear Leonard,

Some 25 years ago, I was an uncompromising opponent of the concept of the State (I still am) and in search of spiritual brethren. This search led me to attend a meeting of the Mont Pelerin Society. During its first two days, I felt ill at ease, because I met only people who were positioning themselves as advisors of government. They used that term, I discovered, to refer to the monopoly of force in their particular country. My own view was (and still is) that government is not an organization but the aggregate of all judiciaries and police forces operating in a free market. I met you just when I thought that I had enough of that conference. You told me that you were a historian (I hope you still are) and I asked you about free market banking. Thereupon you gave me a splendid tutorial about the history of competitive banking in Scotland and the refusal of the ancient Irish to introduce coins, because they could be manipulated and thus inflated. You told me they stuck to the cow as their monetary unit, because their cows were fairly inflation-proof. After that lecture, you introduced me to dozens of libertarians and you even advised me on the favorite drinks of each, when I decided to throw a party for them. It became a great conference!

Ever since, you have been my infallible tutor on libertarian theories, books, events, habits and people, bringing me into contact with many marvelous personalities of your incredibly wide libertarian network. We met annually on one or the other continent and also at my home in Brussels, where you invariably pushed me to establish an institute that would undertake research into economics, politics and law.

That institute came eventually into being and it lasted until I decided to take up residence in a country with an old-fashioned inflation-proof currency. In fact, have heard of scores of judicial verdicts during the past seven years that condemned the defendant to pay compensation in terms of camels, or 1/2 or 1/4 of a camel. This monetary unit freely competes with bank notes of 500 and 1,000 shilling that are freely convertible into foreign currency. These bank notes all date from before 1991, when the central bank that issued them was not yet dismantled, together with the State by which it was established. After the demise of this central bank, inflation stopped. Vis-a-vis the US dollar, for instance, this shilling has remained quite stable since then. The only problem with these bank notes is that they have become quite smelly. Hence my question what history teaches that the bankers over here, who refuse to revive the Somali State, should now do to refresh their shillings.

Leonard, I thought I knew all about you, but apparently I missed out on one fact. I just learned that you were born in a historic year, the one in which Adolf Hitler took control of Germany.

Happy Birthday!

Michael van Notten

Addis Ababa Office: P. O. Box 62,327 Tel. 251 -1-51 97 65 Fax: 251 -1-51 88 55/77
E-mail <michaelloan@padie.org.apc.org>
Jigjiga Office: P. O. Box 204 RRC Registration: W 19/15/76/874
August 28, 1998

Dear Leonard:

Happy, Happy Birthday. To think, we have known each other for over thirty years. If memory serves me, we first met in Murray Rothbard’s "salon" when I was a college student and green-horn libertarian and you were already a libertarian "presence." Who could have predicted then that our lives would intertwine in so many ways? Or that so many years later we would wind up living and working just steps away from each other?

On the occasion of your sixty fifth birthday I want you to know how grateful I am that through the years our lives have continued to touch one another. It has been a privilege to have as a friend a man whom I admire, like and trust. I admire you for your quiet but unflagging dedication to the cause of liberty, your willingness often to subdue your own ego to get the job done, your ability to get along with even the most difficult people because you can always find something in them worthy of your good will. I like you for your sense of humor, your integrity and above all your warmth. Whenever we are together, you always make me feel that you genuinely like me, too (which is perhaps a selfish reason for feeling so kindly toward you, but it is only one of my reasons!). And above all I trust you because you have never, ever betrayed my trust.

On this special day, in particular I want to thank you for listening to me and gently advising me at a time when I was going through my own spiritual struggles. Whether you know it or not, you are a wonderful witness for Christ because you are a model of Christian life. Even in my darkest doubts, I had to think that if Leonard has faith, then there must be something to the faithful life.

So Leonard, again, Happy Birthday. This day above all you should know that you are well loved by your friends and that you are truly a child of God.

With all my good wishes,

Karen Vaughn
July 16, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Executive Vice President
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard:

This note brings my very best wishes on this happy occasion. I know you will be surrounded by friends as you mark this important day, but then when are you not? It seems everyone knows you, and everyone is your friend!

You have become such an important part of our movement – perhaps because you are responsible for nurturing and building most of it. So many of us have benefited from your advice and generosity. You are our encyclopedia, rolodex, historian, and counselor. But most of all, you are our friend and for this we will always be grateful.

I hope you have a wonderful day, and hope we can all be together for your future celebrations!

With much love and respect,

Bridgett G. Wagner
Hurricane Mtn. Farmhouse
P. O. Box 310
Intervale, NH 03845
24 June 1998

Professor Leonard Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
4084 University Drive, Suite 103
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard

The word is out. You will reach Big Brother's or the welfare state age of 65 sometime this year. Pay no attention. Continue as you have for these many years.

The event, however, provides impetus for acknowledging your many contributions in a variety of disciplines to the well being of society, of scholarship and of the many fortunate individuals who have crossed your path. You possess a wide ranging knowledge. Your ability to couple this with an understanding and the strengthening of the humanities brings forth my admiration. Another generation or two awaits you.

More personally is the feeling of kinship with you. We have soldiered together these many decades in the cause of a free society and for a free and responsible people. We have done our best to earn our freedom. Those who follow also must earn theirs.

Thank you for being a comrade in a long march -- for adding your considerable strength and talents. May the years to come be for you as fruitful and satisfying as those now a memory.

Faithfully

[Signature]

Richard A. Ware, D.Sc.S. (h.c.)
President Emeritus


Daß sich dies ändert, wird unser aller Aufgabe sein. In diesem Sinne alles Gute, ein frohes Wiedersehen im August/September bei der MPS in Washington und ein herzliches „ad multos annos“.

June 11, 1998

Leonard P. Liggio
C/o John Blundell
The Institute of Economic Affairs
2 Lord North Street
London SW1P 3LB
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Leonard,

At this milestone of your career I join your many other admirers in offering hearty congratulations. To me you are the consummate scholar and avid reader in the widest field of intellectual endeavour. I have seen you many times at various conferences, and while others typically occupy the intervals/breaks in chit chat and personal business, you are to be found in quiet corners continuously reading manuscripts, articles and books.

Like many others I recognize your work especially on the French classical liberals: Jean Baptiste Say, Destutt de Tracy, Charles Dunoyer, and the French Physiocrats. But what has impressed me most has been the breadth of your knowledge. A few years ago I was "taking time off" to read biographies of the English romantic poets and I was unexpectedly intrigued by aspects in the life of Shelley. After mentioning this to you, you acquainted me for the first time with members of the Shelly circle and their shared philosophy.

Just as striking is your knowledge of the history of English education - which, as you know, is one of my fields. I have found that you have greater knowledge than me on the libertarian contribution of Herbert Spencer. And, incidentally, I have been meaning to tell you that Spencer was, for many years, the intellectual mentor of young Beatrice Potter dater Beatrice Webb! But again I have no doubt that you discovered this also - and many years ago!

Finally: for anyone else who needs further acquaintance with the encyclopaedic nature of your knowledge of the early pioneers, they will surely find material enough in your editorials and subject selection in the Literature of Liberty which you so ably edited in the late seventies and early eighties.

So best wishes Leonard, and I look forward to many further intellectual interactions.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Edwin G. West (Professor Emeritus)
June 24, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio

Dear Leonard,

My best congratulations on your birthday!

I first met you, as I remember, at a lunch at Operakällaren in Stockholm. You revealed at that moment imposing knowledge about the Swedish history, especially the so-called "period of freedom" in the 18th century.

Best wishes are for the future. As this letter is semi-public, let me summarize three changes in mental perceptions or set of ideas that I believe should make the Western world, not least Western Europe, safer for liberty than it is today.

The first one is to always make a sharp distinction between the state and the society. In American language, it is easier, because you often speak about "the government" when e.g. a Swedish journalist writes "the state". When the Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander (1946-1969) wanted "a strong society", he meant a bigger public sector.

Only in a totalitarian state the society is the same as the state.

The second one is to always reject the view that all changes in society are like a zero-sum game; an improvement for an individual or a group is always at the expense of some one else. But with an economic growth of 3.5 per cent per year, the economy will double during 20 years. What is most important – to decrease poverty or to decrease wealth? That question is too seldom asked, so frankly put.

The third one is to observe and recognize the difference between legitimate and illegitimate group interests. Both kinds could be legal, as lobbying often is, but legitimate group interest is to defend one's own group from discriminatory behavior from the state. Illegitimate group interest is to ask for privileges for one's own group, rent seeking.

Partly all of these changes can be regulated, at least indirectly, in a written constitution or some other legal framework. But as most fundamental things, they are founded in mental things. And therefore, they must live as ideas inside most people.

The history of human beings is a history of ideas, improving or destroying human life.

Keep going, Leo!

All the best,

Carl-Johan Westholm
July 20, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on reaching the typical American retirement age. Now go back to work. Go back, more specifically, to your lifelong work as the global ambassador for liberty, building the free society around the globe. It will keep you younger, and more importantly it will make the rest of us freer.

Leonard, I first remember meeting you at a Libertarian Scholars' Conference in New York almost 25 years ago. You were pointed out to me by someone who claimed you could speak knowledgeably for at least fifteen minutes about any decade in any nation's history. In the intervening years I have asked you many questions about the history of the world, and you have never falsified the claim.

A year or two later you came up to Harvard to give a lecture organized by an undergraduate organization in which I was active. An armed conflict in West Africa was in the news, so your talk had a title having to do with the economic and political history of the conflict. Five minutes before you were due to go on, you turned to me and asked: Should I cover the historical background, or discuss the recent events? A little bit of both, I suggested. So you began in 1400 AD and, speaking without notes, had nearly gotten to the twentieth century fifty minutes later. It was an amazing performance. If in my own subsequent academic career I have tried to infuse monetary economics with a little bit of history, that may have been the demonstration that convinced me of the value of doing so.

Again congratulations, and keep amazing us.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. White
Professor of Economics
June 18, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Institute for Humane Studies
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Leonard:

Happy 65th birthday. Welcome to the world of Social Security, Medicare and other intergenerational income transfers. For years I used to remind my fellow men, of advancing ages, that the mind was the first thing to go but the second was worse. But with pharmacological advances, there's the pleasant news that we need not face deterioration in that order.

In any case, I wish you many more birthdays. We need more strong, scholarly soldiers like you in the continuing struggle to sell our fellow man on the moral superiority of liberty and limited government.

Sincerely,

Walter E. Williams, Chairman & John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics

WEW:/kls
July 1, 1998

Professor Leonard P. Liggio
Atlas Economic Research Foundation
& Institute for Humane Studies
4084 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Leonard,

How can the many friends of liberty sufficiently honor you on the occasion of your birthday and adequately celebrate your many contributions to the cause we hold dear? We cannot, of course. You have played a role on so many fronts, you are surely unique in the history of liberty’s revival in this half of the 20th century. We can only hope that in individually honoring what we find most dear and valuable, together we can begin to fill in a picture of our gratitude to the compleat Leonard.

On behalf of myself and other friends of liberty, then, I would like to thank you most for your intellectual generosity. You have cultivated the unusual virtue of regarding everyone as a potential friend. Without ever suspending your critical judgment, you are able to find the good and interesting and useful in others’ ideas. In this way you have been able to connect with a large circle of intellectuals, facilitating a valuable two-way flow of ideas and showing by example how we might all seek a kernel of insight even from our apparent adversaries.

Personally, I would like to thank you for . . .

. . . your phone calls when I was editor of Reason -- out of the blue, rarely about anything in particular, yet always in the end offering an idea, a name, a valuable connection.

. . . your vast memory of people and events and ideas, never flaunted but available for recounting when prompted.

. . . the carefully selected children’s books for my daughter as she was growing up, casually dropped in my office mailbox around Christmas time.

. . . your ever-cheerful disposition and your unfailing equanimity.

With friends like you, Leonard, who cares about enemies? I am grateful to have been a compatriot since about 1974 and a colleague since 1989, and hope that I and my younger colleagues can enjoy many more years of learning from you.

Fondly,

[Signature]

Ms. Marty Zupan
Senior Vice President