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Thank you for that kind introduction. Mark Twain used to say that it made him feel extremely uncomfortable when people said nice things about him. He was always afraid they would leave something out. But I don't think even Mark Twain would have any complaints today.

As a Long Islander for nearly four decades, this inclusion into the Long Island Business Hall of Fame is a great honor. It is particularly special to be joined by so many Long Island business leaders, including our friends Lew Meltzer, Chairman of Meltzer Lippe; and Michael Dowling, CEO of Northwell Health.

Thank you to: Long Island Business News; my colleagues, our business partners and suppliers, our investors, NGO partners and my friends and family for all of your support; the members of Team Schein, who have made this possible through their steadfast commitment over the years.

I consider Long Island to be home. This is where my wife, Marion, and I raised our children. However frequently I fly around the world, I always return here to Long Island.

Henry Schein's roots remains firmly planted on Long Island. In 1994, when our Company was growing quickly, we chose to stay on Long Island and moved our world headquarters to Melville. Today, nearly 1,500 Team Schein Members call Long Island home. And the quality of life that Long Island provides helps us attract and retain our team members.

We all know that Long Island is a great place to invest one's career, and it also is a great place to give back to the community, as we have done for years through Henry Schein Cares.

Team Schein Members have helped build homes for the homeless; cleaned up parks and beaches; supported disease awareness and research; served meals to those less fortunate; helped those who help animals; given blood; enabled children to go back to school well dressed and well prepared; and made the holidays brighter for less fortunate families across the Island.

We have helped expand access to care for underserved populations here on Long Island and around the world by advancing wellness, building capacity in the delivery of health care services, and assisting in emergency preparedness and relief. That last category – emergency preparedness and relief – brings me to some thoughts I would like to share today.

Recently we have seen unbelievable scenes of heroism during Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and in the wake of the horrific Las Vegas shooting and the terrorist attack in

New York City. After these tragedies, we have seen the best of America – people helping people regardless of race, creed or color. We have seen the fruit of selfless collaboration as people have once again come together to help each other.

We should remember this selfless collaboration when we consider the tone of our public discussion, which has taken such an awful turn here in the United States and around the world. Working through our differences requires listening and understanding. Civility is the glue that binds us together and makes collaboration possible. We need to remember what Mother Teresa said so beautifully: “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

As a CEO, I am frequently asked about how I decide to speak up publicly on social and political issues. Millennials expect business leaders to speak up, but customers may not want us to say anything. Our broad spectrum of constituents may have differing points of view. But business leaders are increasingly speaking up as the world increasingly demands answers from business.

On some issues, we can't avoid the discussion – nor should we. But we have to pick the right time and place, and here is how I decide when to engage and when to not speak out: I ask whether I can deliver a message of collaboration. We need so much more collaboration in all of society and in corporations. It truly is the only way things get better.

President Ronald Reagan said: “If we love our country, we should also love our countrymen.” This sometimes means speaking up for each other.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel echoed these thoughts when he said: “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

This isn't about choosing sides; it is about acting on your conscience – doing what you think is right in a civil manner.

I was particularly struck by the comments made this year by Ken Frazier, the CEO OF Merck: "America's leaders must honor our fundamental values by clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry, and group supremacy, which run counter to the American ideal that all people are created equal.”

I feel confident that my neighbors and colleagues here today – the business leaders of Long Island – share this view.

In 2011, in a speech on Ellis Island, I said that “No dream is too big for Americans. That the United States provides that rare environment that allows people to dream big, and to turn those dreams into reality.”

Civility, respect and collaboration is a big dream, and together we can turn that dream into reality. It may sometimes seem almost impossible in our politically-charged, media-saturated world. But we should remember what President Nelson Mandela said: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

I am confident that we can achieve the civility, respect and collaboration that we all need and deserve, and that our best years lie ahead of us. Thank you again for this wonderful honor.