



**First Walter Cronkite Awards
Presentation
Old Whaling Church, Edgartown
July 18, 2010**

Walter Cronkite IV Speech

Henry David Thoreau once said: "It takes two to speak the truth; one to speak and one to hear."

My grandfather was grateful for every viewer who tuned in to listen to him each night. And he took very seriously his responsibility to keep his viewers informed so they could properly play their role in our democracy.

His journalistic creed was to "tell the truth, as nearly as it can be determined, beholden to no man, nor cause, nor creed, nor ideology." Throughout his life he worked tirelessly to do this with integrity, humility, geniality, and discipline. And work tirelessly he did.

When I lived with him over the summers here in Edgartown, he was "retired" in his 80s, and on summer vacation, but he would still be the first one up in the house -- in his office banging away at articles and speeches until mid-afternoon. The director of political coverage at CBS News remembers my grandfather's frequent calls during the 2004 presidential campaign; asking about the intricacies of the election and offering his advice on how best to cover it.

Not only was Walter Cronkite a great journalist, he was a great grandfather. He loved teaching me and my cousins sailing and board games. He never missed a little league game. During dinner he would take his time and that of his guests to teach and debate with his grandsons the issues of the day.

Walter Cronkite loved the Vineyard and he loved young people. He would have been very proud of the young people of the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative.

I am honored to give out these Awards in his name. Thanks again from my whole family to the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and to everyone who made this wonderful event possible.

**Stone Soup Leadership Institute
Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative
www.mvli.org**