



**David E. Shaw Remarks
Richard G. Rockefeller Memorial Service
September 23, 2014**

It's an honor for me to join this celebration of such an extraordinary life

My name is David Shaw.

Both Richard and I lived near Portland, Maine for many years. Yet we never really knew each other well until just 10 years ago. And then suddenly, almost overnight, we became OLD friends.

In great friendships there can be a sense of meeting a kindred spirit for the first time and feeling that you've always known each other.

I felt that way about Richard.

I loved his generous spirit, his sense of purpose, his gifted mind, his thoughtfulness. We discovered many shared interests.

As we spent more time together I had a feeling that I was coming under his care. Richard was a wonderful physician, but I learned that Richard's sense of caring and providing care extended FAR beyond the kind of care that a doctor typically provides to patients.

His heart and mind intuitively wanted to create happiness and alleviate suffering of many kinds:

- suffering from medical problems
- suffering of the human spirit
- suffering in our natural world,
- suffering caused by wrong-minded policies, and .. insufferable meetings

He was a caring doctor, a healer, a caring environmental steward, a caring philanthropist, a caring friend and much more – always seeking to unlock greater happiness around him, and around people he loved.

I have wonderful memories of hiking with Richard and others in the beautiful mountain landscapes of Bhutan. Richard became fascinated with the government of Bhutan's efforts to increase the gross national happiness of its people.

As we hiked along high mountain trails we had long discussions about happiness:

what is happiness ?

how can greater happiness benefit the human spirit and the human condition

I'll always remember sitting with Richard near Bhutan's famous Tiger's Nest temple, perched on a high precipice overlooking a vast valley below. We knew that Tiger's Nest was an ancient center for the study of happiness by Buddhist scholars. The great Buddhist guru Padmasambhava is reported to have studied at Tiger's Nest for 3 years, 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days. This fascinated Richard. We learned that more than 1000 years of contemplation had resulted in a Buddhist belief in seven different kinds of happiness. It was an unforgettable experience to discuss these with Richard in such an awe inspiring setting. Imagine temple bells ringing as the sun set at Tiger's Nest.

The next morning Richard's inquisitive mind continued to be highly engaged on issues of happiness, including the seven types. At breakfast, he suggested that we try to experience all seven that day.

It is testimony to Richard's thoughtfulness that by evening he was ready to suggest possible additions to the list. I'll let you imagine what these were.

As the journey of our friendship continued, we pursued more common interests and collaborations.

One of these was an ambitious effort to protect a vast and unique ocean ecosystem called the Sargasso Sea - which extends across several million square miles of the North Atlantic ocean. It is sometimes called the great golden rainforest of world oceans.

As Richard learned about threats to the health of the Sargasso Sea and world oceans, I could see that it triggered his inclination to provide care, to be a healer. He was applying his Hippocratic oath as a doctor to our planet and our oceans. Beleaguered oceans became a subject for his care.

We visited the Sargasso Sea, many times, diving in vast, floating seaweed forests, teaming with life.

I have a vivid memory of free diving with Richard one sunny day. He was an accomplished diver, and I saw him far below me. He was gazing upward from dark depths below – arms outstretched with an expression of serene happiness. He knew that his caring for the ocean surrounding him that day would make a difference.

It was a happy day for us, and a very historic day for global oceans, when a declaration for protecting the Sargasso Sea was adopted in March of this year. Through all of our work, Richard was a constant source of leadership in support of hope, health and happiness for oceans – to benefit future generations.

In the midst of the Sargasso Sea effort we unexpectedly developed another dimension to our friendship, another bond. I had been aware throughout our

friendship that Richard's experience as a cancer survivor influenced his view of life. Suddenly I was hospitalized with a lethal brain injury. Months later, our shared survival experiences deepened our friendship. I will always be profoundly grateful for the care that he provided as a friend.

The outpouring of love for Richard in recent months is testimony to a life exceptionally well-lived. Because of our friendship, many expressions of tribute and sympathy were sent to me. Recurring themes included:

Wonderful man
Remarkable legacy
Heart of gold
Generous spirit
Tireless champion
Devoted and inspirational
Humble and gracious
Kind and thoughtful

It seems fitting that I conclude with a declaration similar to the Sargasso Sea declaration that was so important to Richard.

Whereas
Richard Rockefeller was an exceptionally gifted provider of care

Whereas
He used his talents and capabilities extraordinarily well to benefit others

Whereas
Our lives have been blessed with his friendship, his love and his care

NOW THEREFORE

Let us lift our hearts in celebration of his remarkable life, and continue our own journeys inspired by his spirit.

