## Greetings!

- After every one greets me "for being 80-years", perhaps I am EIGHTY!
- Life is a stage, a drama in which each of us is merely 'an actor' and to me in this epic walk "miracles had a mighty role", and I term it as 'divine interventions' that shaped the turn of events.
  - It was President Clinton who mentioned in his "State of the Union" message that we should be prepared to alter the course of careers depending upon the exigencies of times.
  - In my life from a very successful career as a senior government official I chose mid-stream an academic pursuit. This gave me laurels at Pittsburgh but a change in geographical location became a challenge – diverting from macrostructural-designs to microscopic fracture mechanics – thanks to Jai Brihmadesam.
  - Working assiduously, on the deviated course, for the past decade I can humbly state that today, almost every nuclear reactor in the world uses the book I edited!
  - Recently I swerved further into the energy domain with profound success.
- I have traversed 300° of life-span and for the remaining 60° pie it may be prudent to reduce my diversions and focus on what I always wanted to do - <u>Engineer</u> the thoughts of Philosophers of Technology, Lewis Munford; Swedish Economist Gunnar Myrdal, Harvard Political Strategist Samuel Huntington and the US futurist Alvin Toffler.
- As a believer in Hindu Vedic values of "life-cycle and rebirth and the continuum of the soul", knowledge, distinct from the mundane values; I intend to veer my journey now on wards for leaving something for 'posterity'.
- I have paid my dues to the community welfare such as (1) At Pittsburgh NTR and TANA to AP and Telugus; (2) As Founder & Chair of ASME EXPO at Jackson, funding \$50,000 for MSU; (3) As Founder and Chair funding via ECTCs for past 12 years \$58750 for 287 early career birds; (4) to Jacksonians via IAM Gandhi Statue; (5) For my engineering education via ASME's classical handbooks and publications.
- I should thank as Dr. Crenshaw, my family physician who calls Indira as 'my running mate', since she has truly walked and ran with me since for the last 45 years!

- Indeed my thanks are for my grand-daughters Lola and Leela who have come across the Continent merely for this day!
- It is the tireless efforts of Rekha who enthused Indira and me to chronicle my life's journey in a pictorial narrative.
- Even though, members of the 'family', I need to thank Sunder, Uma, Ishu and Neil for taking pains to attend this occasion of celebrations assiduously orchestrated by Indira.
- To each of you severally and collectively I salute you for the affection bestowed on me and Indira during these past 24-years at Jackson, MS.

Thus, a big Thank You!