



Lanny Floyd

## What Is Worth Mentioning Today?

Coleman Cox wrote, “Now that it’s over, what did you really do yesterday that was worth mentioning?”

As I read the quote from Cox, I stopped reading and thought about my answer. I knew I was busy yesterday. There were times I was rushing, and at the end of the day it seemed there was not enough time. Every morning I wake up with 86,400 s of time. I use that time for my own needs and interests and those of family, friends, work, community, professional colleagues, and people I don’t know who, by chance, cross my path. Each of these interactions and engagements requires some allocation of those 86,400 s.

Now back to the question, “What is worth mentioning today?” When measured in seconds, each day is a large number, but how many of those seconds from yesterday are worth mentioning today? In today’s fast-paced environment, many of us are moving quickly from one task, project, or other demand on our time. Our lives seem to be ruled by schedules and deadlines.

One thing I try to do, and I must admit that I have a lot of room for

improvement, is to take time to recognize people in my life who are making a positive difference. That difference may include, but is certainly not limited to, making a difference in a friendship, community service, or business success or, in some way, protecting planet Earth for me and future generations. Somewhere in that mix may include making a difference through technical contributions and leadership in the IEEE and other professional organizations.

So what could I do today to recognize someone so that tomorrow it would be worth mentioning? Here’s my go-to list that prompts me to allocate some of those 86,400 s to recognize and encourage others.

- *Write a fan letter:* A handwritten note to a friend, coworker, or colleague is a thoughtful and personal way to express appreciation or admiration to that person. Although e-mail and text messages may be convenient, a handwritten note is special. It shows that you took extra time and attention to share your thoughts. What makes a fan letter so special? It is personal, sincere, timely, and unexpected.
- *Nominate a colleague for IEEE Senior Member:* The nomination forms and reference letters can

be completed online by following the directions on the IEEE Senior Member website. I will always remember the gracious thank you note I received from a 75-year-old colleague and long-time IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) volunteer when he was notified that his elevation to IEEE Senior Member was successful. He knew that I had initiated the nomination.

- *Nominate a peer for a professional award:* There are award and recognition opportunities within every organizational entity in the IEEE. Almost every entity—Societies, Regional Chapters, Student Branch Chapters, and technical committees—have recognition and award processes. Awards at the IAS and IEEE level focus on recognizing those volunteers who have demonstrated extraordinary contributions and leadership in advancing technology and professional service.
- *Nominate a Senior Member for IEEE Fellow:* The IEEE Fellow program recognizes individuals whose extraordinary accomplishments have contributed to the advancement or application of engineering, science, and technology

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a school or a community meeting. If you aren't a public speaker, you could help organize the schedule for a meteorologist to speak on the topic. You can search for a network similar to the ACLENet in your region or country and volunteer as a leader or contribute with a donation. Be creative! IEEE Members like you can be a help-

ful resource to organizations working to reduce these electrical fatalities.

### References

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK *(continued from page 3)*

in ways that have brought significant value to society and humanity. The nomination and ultimate selection processes are rigorous. I have a vivid memory of a conversation with a colleague whom I truly admired for his sincerity in his efforts to recognize peers

in the IAS. He was an IEEE Fellow and had received numerous awards, including some of the most prestigious IAS and IEEE awards. He told me that taking time to see peers recognized was his most rewarding professional experience.

Today is tomorrow's yesterday. What will you do today that will be worth mentioning tomorrow? My examples are just a tiny slice of possibilities but could make a difference for someone.



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