**Al Royse, American Heart Association 2017 Distinguished Leadership Award recipient. Royse is the immediate past Chairman of the American Heart Association Board. (2015-2017)**

“What we do is we save lives. We allow people to live longer and live healthier. What better mission could that be? And every time the last two years I've gone out and walked around, I've seen a grandchild playing with a grandparent walking in a park feeding ducks, I've thought about the fact some of those grandparents would not be here but for the work of all of you at American Heart Association.

Whenever I've seen adult children, sons and daughters, look at their child play with an uncle, or an aunt, or a grandparent, the thought has crossed my mind. Many of those aunts, and uncles, and grandparents, and some little children would not be here but for the work that you all do. A friend of mine says we're in the business of enabling memories to be made that would not otherwise be made.

Enabling memories to be made that would not otherwise be made. So, in closing, I want to thank all of you for the work you do, for the great accomplishments you've achieved, and for allowing memories to be made with people who you'll never see, you'll never know, that otherwise wouldn't be made. It's been one of the great honors of my life to serve as your chairman. Thank you so much.”

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