Good afternoon. I am Graham Spanier, president of Penn State, and I am pleased to welcome you all to this wonderful occasion recognizing one of the University’s most distinguished faculty members and administrators—Charles L. Hosler—and honoring his late wife, Anna Rosa.

Charlie Hosler was known to many as “Mr. Penn State” because of his longstanding association with the University. For more than 60 years, Charlie has been a part of our University, beginning with his time as an undergraduate student and continuing as he went on to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees from Penn State. By the time he retired in 1992 as Penn State’s senior vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School and professor emeritus of meteorology, Charlie had served Penn State with distinction for 44 years in virtually every academic position available, under eight presidents.

I once heard that “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” Charlie Hosler has done that his entire life. His nurturing attitude toward his students, his pioneering work in meteorology, his guidance as head of the Department of Meteorology, and his leadership as dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and in the upper levels of Penn State’s administration are evidence of his ability to foster growth, cultivate achievements, and create legacies.

Like Charlie, this oak tree will bear witness to all that develops around it. Charlie has watched Penn State over six decades as it has evolved into one of the nation’s best universities. Under his leadership as dean, the college experienced significant growth in both research and academic programs.

Like this oak, Charlie is also venerable—revered and respected for his stature among scholars and his place among higher education leaders.

Like this oak, Charlie is steadfast, enduring, and a treasure to our University community. Charlie definitely stands tall—although not quite as tall as this 33-foot tree, which is the first to be planted in what will eventually become the 395-acre Penn State Arboretum, an ambitious project that embodies stewardship and conservation.
The Penn State Arboretum will not only be a teaching and learning laboratory, conservancy, and home for a wide variety of flora and fauna, it will also be a beautiful addition to our region. This Arboretum represents a significant commitment by Penn State to provide open space to our community and preserve and enhance our quality of life.

A century from now, this tree will be a prominent feature of the Arboretum landscape, a memorial to Anna Rosa Hosler -- his wife of 30 years -- and a living reminder of a man who has done so much to move this University forward.