Dear Ed:

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than extolling your benefits in my behalf.

You were the guy who introduced me into cardiovascular research, who not only changed my views regarding the importance of research but also launched and encouraged my career.

You inspired me to write papers, reviewed those papers objectively and probably most important, forced me to speak publicly when I had trouble telling people my name. I am sure that you do not realize, Ed, that you were the guy who made me a pretty good public speaker.

Throughout the years, you have not only been a father figure in the true sense of the word, my father confessor and confidant but, most importantly, a true friend with real understanding.

It was easy to count my true friends when all the trouble hit the fan at Georgetown. You were always right on my team, never criticizing, never judging and never giving advice unless I asked for it.

I am sure that all of your fellows and friends can identify with many of the factors that I have talked about above. Each of them has indeed profited from your wisdom and counseling. The scientific community has been made richer by your many communications. I too have benefited from your scientific thinking, but, most of all, I have benefited from Ed Freis, the man.

Thank you for being my friend.

Very sincerely,

Frank A. Finnerty, Jr., M.D.

FAF/f