

To: Yllka Masada, Silicon Valley Engineering Council
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August 24, 2017

It is with great pleasure that I write to support the nomination of Bill Jennings for the 2018 Silicon Valley Engineering Council's Hall of Fame Award.

I got to know Bill in my role of the Chief Development Officer (CDO) of Cisco, and we worked together since the early 90s at Cisco. His engineering contributions contributed significantly to the growth of Cisco over his fifteen years there. Bill would often be a guest at my staff meetings, and present system solutions to a host of opportunities in system hardware and software.

Bill has led teams at Cisco that were responsible for the development of the equipment which transports over 80% of the Internet traffic today; from the edge through the core, in Service Provider and Enterprise networks. His twenty years of networking technology development in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s was responsible for the build out of the Internet networking infrastructure that we all count on as a society today.

Bill is a well-respected engineer, who has consistently demonstrated great technical and business breadth. He has been a lead designer for four multi-billion dollar product lines from concept to release. He has hands-on knowledge leading and developing products in the Routing, Switching, and Application Software domains in two major markets: Service Providers and Enterprise Networking. These developments included innovations leading to fourteen US patents granted in networking.

Bill's teams at Cisco were recognized for innovation, teamwork, profitability, diversity, and quality.

- He led four teams that were recognized with the Cisco Pioneer Award: including inventing the industry's first Network Processor internally called "Toaster"; Launching the Quantum Flow Processor initiative; and collaborating with Intel to Port the Internet Operating System to a Pentium CPU.
- His team received the Cisco Software Quality award for three of his major initiatives.
- His Shared Port Adapter team was recognized for their cross-business unit teamwork.
- He had Engineering responsibility for the \$4 Billion per year Enterprise Switching Platforms

His innovations and technical incubation of solutions were broadly adopted not just within his business unit, but were commonly used across the entire breadth of Cisco platforms. His core CPU and I/O designs were used in nearly all routers and switches for two decades.

Bill confidentially evaluated and sponsored five acquisitions as an executive: on both technical merit and business fit. These acquisitions ranged in breadth from silicon, to systems, to software.

Bill was a seven year member of the Distinguished Engineer and Fellow promotion committee: reviewing the highest technical promotions in Cisco: a gatekeeper for the highest achievements.

Bill actively partnered with many technology companies, incubating external development of critical systems, including T-Cams, CPUs, memory systems, clocking systems. These partnerships led to acquisitions of smaller teams by major public companies: Marvell buying Galileo Tech, Broadcom buying Netlogic Microsystems, Broadcom buying SiByte, PMC Sierra buying QED Microdevices. His system knowledge was commonly sought out by other companies: both for his ability to partner, and his ability to see a need years before the market was developing.

The engineering community has been well served by his innovation and mentorship, and I can think of no more qualified individual to receive the Hall of Fame honor Award from the Silicon Valley Engineering Council than Bill Jennings, and I am proud to support him today.

Sincerely,



Charlie Giancarlo