I feel greatly honored to be called upon to open this eighth annual meeting of EPIC dedicated to the memory of one of its illustrious founders, Sam Sutton.

Sam and I have often rehearsed what we would each say regarding our life-long cooperation should one of us predecease the other. Sadly, the duty has fallen upon my shoulders. Sam was the most modest, unassuming colleague this side of heaven and, although he was recognized as a pioneer in this field, has not yet received the full recognition he deserves, except for this occasion, and that is why I am so grateful for being able to participate.

He not only discovered P300, he turned the little initially undecipherable squiggles into a world-wide phenomenenon giving us a window into the mind from the chamber of the brain and permitting us to get a peek at how the brain processes meaning. Unlike the previous work on ERP which was primarily physiological, he succeeded in relating it to behavior by imposing a task to be performed while the ERP tracing was taken. Furthermore, he connected ERP with information processing and thus opened up the possibility of studying the relation of ERP to the entire spectrum of responses from the physiological, sensory, perceptual, pychomotor to cognitive domains.
His other major contribution was extending the normal findings of ERP and the other behavioral domains to psychopathology. The primary concern of psychopathologists who are concerned with the study of cognition usually involves responses lasting minutes or hours, which are nilly-willy encrusted with long term life experiences. In contrast, Sam pointed the way to investigating cognition during the first 500 msec following stimulation by introducing guessing tasks and similar tasks. This provided a purer basis for relating brain and behavior largely untrammeled by prior experience. Among the cognitive processes he tackled were uncertainty, meaning and value of stimuli.

During the recent past he had extended his interest from schizophrenia to the problems of dementia and aging and was well on his way to transferring the hard gained knowledge from the normal area to psychopathology. Fortunately he left a cohort of colleagues who can carry out the magnificent program he laid out.

To him, and to his faithful followers, I would like to dedicate this occasion. Perhaps the most salient feature of Sam’s life was his dedication to the search for truth. It was this search which enabled him to make such basic finding in the workings of the mind-brain relationship and to trace the process of meaning to its physiological substrate. A suitable ending to this dedication might be the final prayer offered at the Orthodox Jewish funeral service, "Blessed be the judge of truth." Truth indeed was the life-long search to which he was devoted.