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This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

In a recent obituary in the Wall Street Journal I read with some interest about Walter Zable who was the founder and CEO of Cubic Corporation which developed early missile tracking technology and created the smart card used by subways around the world.

Mr. Zable, who died in late June, 2012, was 97 years of age and he was the oldest active CEO of a public company.

Mr. Zable did not come from a wealthy family, but his ingenuity got him started in the right areas. In grade school he built his first crystal radio set. He credited Boston with having modern schools that taught electronics even though the field was in its infancy. He later studied physics on an athletic scholarship to the College of William and Mary where he lettered in track, baseball, football and basketball. He went on to play professional football with the Dixie League Richmond Arrows.

His most honorary achievements were new product areas including electronic scoreboards, ham radios and corrugated cardboard pizza boxes. Mr. Zable worked on radar and fire control for battleships during World War II. He later developed microwave and antenna technology for several companies including Sperry Gyroscope. In 1951 he founded Cubic Corporation to produce a precise microwave detector. This technology proved useful for missile testing and guidance as well as in the space program, land surveying and other situations where geographical precision was needed. His company also helped develop mapping technology that involved retrieving film dropped from low orbit satellites.

In the 1980's, things took a down turn for Cubic, but even though he was in his 70's, Mr. Zable refocused the company on air and ground combat training and transportation systems, including smart cards and automated toll road collection. He continued to go to work nearly every day and stayed sharp even as his knees and hearing began to deteriorate in recent years. As quoted, he said "like to go to the office and give them hell".

I leave you with a point to ponder. Can you think of any other Country besides this great Country of ours where a person with ingenuity can build an empire that benefits all of mankind.

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Under his leadership, Cubic grew from a San Diego storefront with a single product in 1951 to a defense and transportation system contractor with annual sales of \$1.2 billion in 35 countries and a workforce of 7,800.